RG 104 RECORDS OF THE
BUREAU OF THE MINT
U.S. Mint At Philadelphia,
1791-1936

Correspondence, 1792-1904

CORRESPONDENCE WITH BRANCH MINTS
AND ASSAY OFFICES, 1835-98

New Orleans, La.,
Branch Mint:
1858 - 1859

BOX NO. NC-152 E-11 HM1992
39

NEW ORLEANS- 1858 (CONT.)

LMC

Treasury Department,
Comptroller's Office,
April 2d. 1858.

James Ross Snowden, Esq.
Director of the Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I transmit herewith, for your proper action, the official bond of Logan M. Knight, Esq. Superintendent appointed of the Branch Mint at New Orleans.-

I am, respectfully,
Your obt. Servant,
W. Medill
Comptroller.

From & To
Hon W Medill
Comptroller
Washington City

Official Bond
of Logan McKnight

April 5. 1888.

April 5. 8

Sir,

I have received to-day your letter of the 2nd inst enclosing the bonds of Logan M'Knight Esq. as Supt. of the branch Mint at New Orleans. The delay in reaching me, is due to the fact that by some mistake at the Post office in Washington the letter was sent to New York, and sent thence to Philada.

I herewith return Mr M'Knight's bond with my certificate that it is to my satisfaction.

In the oath of office administered to Mr M'K. the words, "branch of the" are omitted: but as this error does not occur in the bond I think it may be regarded as unimportant.

I am, with great respect,
Your obt. Servt.
James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. W. Medill
Comptroller &c. &c.
Washington City,

To
The Sec Treasury
Washington

April 1858

Enclosing a letter
from Supt R Mint
New Orleans in
relation to arrange-
ment of rooms at
that institution.

April 5. 1858.

April 10. 3.

Sir,

The matters referred to in the Communication herewith enclosed seem to pertain to that branch of the Department which has charge of the construction and re-construction of buildings; and I feel some hesitancy in expressing opinions on the subject-inasmuch as the Department has a Superintendent of Repairs on the spot who is acting under its instructions. I therefore submit these papers to your consideration. I have taken copies of them for future reference if such should become necessary.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Hon. Howell Cobb,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

Copy

To

James Ross Snowden
Director Mint of U.S.

U. S. Branch Mint.
New Orleans March 27th 1858.=

Sir:=

I beg to ask that you will obtain from the Secretary of the Treasury, authority to make the following changes in the departments of this Mint. The room hitherto occupied by my predecessors for their private dining room, I have no use for, and am willing to convert into an office for my own department. It is sufficiently accessible, and very large and airy, and at the same time enables me to give my present office to the Assist. Treasurer U.S. who now has his quarters in the basement of the Mint, and not on the same floor with his rooms as Treasurer of the Mint. The only expense attending this will be about $200 for the furnishing of the new office of the Superintendent, and about $300 for enlarging the vault in my present office, to the capacity needed by the Ast. Treasurer U.S. If this change be allowed, I can give my office up any moment to the Sub-Treasury and thus avoid the inconvenience the Ast. Treasurer U.S. is about to be subjected to by the Superintendent of repairs-who informs me that he will have to take up the floors &c to make some repairs in the basement room, now occupied as the office of the Ast. Treasurer. Under no contingency can this change of quarters cost more than $1000,-and the Ast. Treasurer will then be in a healthy, dry elevation, and on the same floor as the offices of the Treasurer of the Mint. The room now occupied by him, is both dark and damp, being on the ground floor and darkened by the dead wall of the Portico

(Signed) Logan McKnight Supt.

To
The Sec Treasury
Washington

April 1858

Enclosing a letter
from Supt U.S. Mint
New Orleans, in
relation to arrange-
ment of rooms at
that institution.

April 5. 1858.

U. S. Branch Mint.

New-Orleans, Apl 5 1857.

Sir:

Both my health and private business render it necessary for me to ask for leave of absence during the coming summer-months. I have now gotten the affairs of Mint in such a condition of regularity that I feel more than ordinarily emboldened to ask this favor - so indispensable to me.

I wish to leave the city in May and will endeavor to be at my post in the following November at the farthest. My trip will be to Europe and I shall en-route pay you my respects.

I shall be glad if you will consult with the Department & let me have an early reply.

Dr M. F. Bonzano has usually acted as Superintendent for my predecessors and will with my Clerk see that the Public Interest suffers no detriment.

I am Sir with much respect Yrs Obt Servt

Joyan W. Knight
Supt

To James Ross Snowden
Director Mint U. S.
Phila

Letter
Logan McKnight Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans April 5/58
to the
Director of the Mint

Application for leave
of absence —

McKean

[copy]

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans April 5th 1858.

Sir:—

Both my health and private business renders it necessary for me to ask for leave of absence during the coming Summer months. I have now gotten the affairs of the Mint in such a condition of regularity, that I feel more than ordinarily emboldened to ask this favor.— so indispensable to me.

I wish to leave the City in May, and will endeavor to be at my post in the following November at the farthest. My trip will be to Europe and I shall en-route pay you my respects.

I shall be glad if you will consult with the Department, and let me have an early reply.

Dr. M. G. Bongano has usually acted as Superintendent for my predecessor, and will with my clerk see that the public interest suffers no detriment.

I am Sir with much respect Your Obt. Servt.

(Signed) Logan M. Knight
Supt.

To
James Ross Snowden
Director Mint U.S. Phila.

From
Supt Bt. Mint
N. O.
Application for
leave of absence

April 13/58

From To
Logan McKnight Esq
Supt Ry Mail
N. O.

Application
for Compensation
during Summer
months.

April 6 1885.

Treasury Department.
Comptroller's Office.
April 7th 1858.

James Ross Snowden, Esq.
Director of the Mint.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The official bond of B. F. Taylor, Esq. Comer appointed of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, is enclosed herewith, for your action.—

I am, respectfully,
Your obt. Servant.
W. Medill
Comptroller.

From P. O.

Hon. W. Medill

Comptroller

Washington

Official Bond of

P. L. Taylor as

Comr transmitted by

me for approval. Returned

un approved on a/c

of informality.—

April 8. 1853.—

April 8. 8.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday enclosing the official bond of Mr. Taylor recently appointed Coiner of the branch mint at New-Orleans.

I notice that in the body of the bond that John Martin Bach is named as one of the sureties, but the signature thereto is John Morris Bach. I think this is an irregularity which should be corrected.

As the bond will be re-executed I would suggest that the seals be more distinctly made. I think there should be something more than a very small piece of wafer loosely attached to the paper at the end of the name. which may readily fall off, and thus render the bond not under seal.

And in the oath of office let the words, "branch of the" be inserted before the word Mint.

If you concur in these views, please return the papers (herewith recorded) to New Orleans for correction.

I am, with great respect,
Your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint

Hon. W. Medill
Comptroller
Treasury Department
Washington City.

U. S. Branch Mint.

New-Orleans, Apl 7 1858.

Sir:

Herewith find following documents touching the operations of Branch Mint N. O. viz:

Statement of Deposits & Coinage for month of March
" " Coins reserved from Assay "
" " Silver Purchase Profit & Loss for Quarter to 31st
" " Bullion Deposit Profit & Loss for quarter to 31st
" " Condition of Branch Mint
Wk for week ending Apl 3d.
" of Profit & Loss a/c for quarter Dec 31 to March 31st

We forward you by the morrows mail package of Assay Coins.

You will please furnish me with your a/c current (with Vouchers for payments as charged therein) agst the Treasurer this Branch Mint.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Cyan McKnight
Supt

To
James Ross Snowden Esq
Director Mint of
U.S: Philadelphia

From Sg
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Assay Com's Report
for March Rec'd &
Acknowledged

April 16, 1888.

April 15th 8.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your [illegible] of the 7th inst. with the enclosures stated, also, [illegible] containing the assay coins of your Branch [illegible] month of [illegible] last.

A statement of account current with [illegible] will be sent to you in the course of [illegible].

Very Respectfully,

James Ross Snowden

Director of the Mint.

[illegible] Receipt Copy,

[illegible]

[illegible]

April 9. 1.

Sir

At the request of the Superintendent of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, I have recently caused a shipment of black lead crucibles, covers, dippers and stirrers to be made to that institution. The sum of One Thousand three hundred and three 30/100 dollars ($1,303.30) is required to pay the bills for the foregoing articles. I will thank you to cause the above amount to be advanced to the Treasurer of the Mint, for the payment of the bills referred to, from the appropriation of that Branch Mint for Incidental & Contingent Expenses for the current fiscal year.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your faithful servant,
[illegible]
Director of the Mint

Hon Howell Cobb,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

To

Sec Treasury

Requisition for $1.303.30,
to pay for Uncibles Shipped
to Br Mint New
Orleans.-

April 9. 1858.-

From Supt & Assts
New Orleans

Enclosing communication from Assayer in relation to distribution of coins. —
Directors letter transmitting the above to the Department endorsed herewith.

April 10. 1855 F. —

April 8. 8.

Sir,

Herewith I transmit to the Department a copy of a letter I received to-day from the Superintendent of the branch mint at New Orleans.

I submit this Communication with the single remark, that the suggestion of re-arranging the rooms appropriated to the Treasurer of the branch mint, who is ex officio Supt. Treas. U.S., as to have both Treasuries on the same floor, and contiguous to each other, is well worthy of your Consideration. The change proposed would place the two Treasuries on either hand of the main entrance to the building, and be separated from each other only by the Hall: and then the Treasurer would be able to exercise a

greater supervision over the Treasuries
Committee to his charge than by the
present arrangement of the rooms.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your faithful servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint

Hon. Howell Cobb.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City.

Copy/

U.S. Branch Mint
New Orleans 30 march 1858.

Sir:—

Herewith please find Communications from Assayer this Mint, on subject of my disposal of the quarters which have always belonged to the Superintendent, as his own private Rooms.

The rooms heretofore occupied by the assayer being in course of repair, I allowed him, about a fortnight since, temporarily to use the parlors and dining room of Superintendent, for his furnaces and apparatus. His former quarters will be ready for his use, as I am informed by Sup. of Repairs, during the first part of May, when I shall place him (unless otherwise directed) back to where the Assay Rooms have always been. And I will then, as you have already been advised, convert the dining rooms of Supt. into the office of Supt. giving present office of Supt. to the Assist. Treasurer, U.S. I will, also, unless otherwise directed, give the parlor of Sup. and three rooms above it to the "Superintendents Clerk," the officer whose existence is recognized, and whose duties are

partly assigned in the printed "Instructions" issued by you. page 9. Sec. 3. This officer also performs a part of the duties of the officer heretofore called "Messenger." The existence of which I have thought an useless expense to the Mint, and have abolished. As repairs are now progressing more satisfactorily than ever. I have hope of reporting to you the completion of the various rooms desired for this arrangement. You will observe that the only changes I have introduced have been of my own quarters, in converting them to the use of the Government — so far as two rooms are concerned, and to the use of the Superintendents Clerk so far as three rooms and the basement are concerned.

The subject of residences at the Mint seems to have been for a long period back, matter of some difference amongst the officers. I am glad that I am able to divert a portion of these quarters to the Government; and although I was requested by the Assayer (whose letter B is enclosed) to let him have my residence for the residence of his family, I felt constrained to decline that request, as I do the present one, because I am sure, the use I propose is better for the conduct of the Mint.

I think the wing adjacent to the river — where those ~~much~~ coveted lodgings of the former Superintendents are would be especially objectionable to the Assayer who (in his letter A herewith) speaks of the difficulty of a "vibratory motion" from the rapid passage of vehicles over our soft soil. The room he desires to obtain — the parlor of Superintendent is situated fronting the river and facing the most thronged thoroughfare of our City.

The residence of Superintendent is generally considered a part of his pay or salary. I have chosen to dispense with it, having a residence of my own; and anxiously desiring to promote by any personal sacrifice, the usefulness of this Branch of your Department.

You will please pardon this over lengthy explanation and I remain

Respectfully your obt Servt.
(Signed) Logan McKnight

To
James Ross Snowden
Director Mint U.S.
Philadelphia

Copy B.

Branch Mint—Assay Department
New Orleans Feb 10. 1858.

Dear Sir:

Having been informed by you that you do not intend to occupy the lodgings assigned for the Superintendent in the Mint. I beg leave to submit—if they are to be used for other than Mint purposes—my claims to their occupancy. Besides the convenience and advantages which would result both to the Department and myself in occupying a part of the building wherein my services and personal attention are daily required—and the great saving to me of the important item of rent.

I flatter myself that many years service as an officer of the government, will entitle me in your opinion, to the privileges I ask.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) H Millaudon
Assayer.

To
Logan M Knight
Lieut.—

Copy A

U.S. Branch Mint.=
Assayer's Office.
New Orleans. March 27. 1858.

Sir.-

Before any steps are taken to remove the Assay Department Back to its former location, I beg leave most respectfully to point out the inconveniences that have existed there ever since I have been in the Mint.

In the first place, the passage of heavy Bullion cars below in the Melting Department, the breaking up of pots, and the running of machinery, communicates such a vibratory motion to the building, as to prevent me from weighing accurately. Not unfrequently, I am forced to suspend my operations entirely.

In the second place, my Department being directly over the Melting Room, the heat in ~~the heat. in~~ the Summer season, is almost insupportable.

The softness of the soil here, it is well known, is such that the passage of wheels in rapid motion, along the Streets, communicates a vibratory motion to the walls of buildings, which is greater as you

ascend. The location in the third Story is objectionable on this account. In the quarters which I occupy, at present, these difficulties in a great measure do not exist.

The delicacy of the Assayer's operations, require that he should be made as comfortable, as possible in every respect. Upon the accuracy of his operations depend in a great measure, the efficiency and well working of the entire establishment. This wing is much preferable to the other, on account of the absence of all machinery, And of there being no Bullion Cars traversing the Galleries, as on the side occupied by the Melter & Refiner.

On this side, where I now am, there are no cars running. No machinery moving. It is free from all difficulties, which have constantly existed, and which have been a source of annoyance to the Assayer, impairing the accuracy of his work since the establishment of the Mint.=

With no other desire than to promote the interest of the Government, in this matter. So far as it is in my power, I trust the reasons given for the continuation of my Department in its present location, will be paramount to every other consideration.

To
Logan McKnight
Supt.

Very respec.y your obt Servt.
(signed) H Millspaugh — assayer

Copy C.

U.S. Branch Mint.
Assayer's Office
New Orleans March 20th 1858.

Hon. Howell Cobb.
Sec. of the Treasury.

Sir:—

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter addressed by me to Logan McKnight. Esq. Superintendent, in reference to the permanent location of the Assay Department.

In reply to which, he stated verbally, "that it was impossible for him to give up the rooms; that he desired one for his office, and the other he had assigned otherwise."

For the better elucidation of the subject, it is necessary to state, that the rooms, consisting of two large parlors, and a dining-room (at present occupied by me for the Assay Department) and a like number on the first and third floors, have been formerly occupied as a superintendents dwelling to the serious detriment of the working Departments.

The officers concerned, have from motives of

courtesy, refrained from informing the Department of their necessities. Our present Superintendent has refused to occupy these Quarters himself; but, it is understood, has assigned them for the accomodation of a new officer, created by himself, in the place of the Messenger

In addition to the arguments in my letter to the Sup. of 27 March, to which I invite your attention, it may be of interest to the Department to know that the present Assay furnaces and apparatus have been constructed, under my immediate supervision in the most substantial and durable manner.

I am induced to believe that I may promote better the interests of the Government, by attending to the legitimate duties of my department, than to re-construct furnaces, and apperatus that are already as well established as they can possibly be.

I have the honor to be
Respectfully Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) H. Millspough.
Assayer.

Treasury Department
April 12th 1858

Sir

Your letter of the 10th inst is received with its enclosures.

I received on the 2nd inst from the Supt his application for the change of occupation of some of the apartments and his request for authority to make an expenditure of $1000 to carry it into effect. He was informed on the same day that no sanction could be given to such proposed changes until their effect on the present and future economy of occupation was clearly understood - on which points J. H. Duncan Esq Supt of repairs was at the same time, called on to report in detail.

Very respectfully
Your obedt Svt

Howell Cobb
Secretary of Treasury

Robt Harden Esq
Director of the Mint
Phila

From Sec Treasury

Destitution of rooms
at P.H. Mint New Orleans
Report on the subject
requested from Supt of
Repairs

June 14. 1855

April 13th 8.

Sir,

I herewith enclose a communication from Logan McKnight Esq.r, Supt. of the branch Mint at New Orleans, asking for leave of absence for a few months from May next. Mr McKnight says that his health and private business render this indulgence necessary. I depo his application to your Consideration.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your faithful Servant,

James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Hon. Howell Cobb.
Secretary of the Treasury.
Washington City.

To
The Sec Treasury

Enclosing application
of Supt R Mint New
Orleans for leave
of absence for a
few months.

April 13. 1858.

Treasury Department
April 14-1858

Sir,

I am in receipt of your communi-
-cation enclosing the application of
Logan M Knight. Esqr. Superintendent of
the Branch Mint at New Orleans for a leave
of absence during the ensuing Summer months.

The Department does not deem it
advisable to grant so long a leave of ab-
-sence as asked for by Mr. M Knight, being
against its policy as well as practice.—

In consideration however of his ill-
-health, the Department is willing to ap-
-ply to this case the practice which has
governed in similar cases, and will
grant Mr. M Knight the utmost limit
heretofore granted, not to exceed two months.—

The application of Mr M Knight is
herewith returned.—

I am Very Respy.
Howell Cobb
Sect. of the Treasury

Jas. Ross Snowden Esqr
Director of Mint. Philada

From
Sec Treasury

Application for
leave of absence
by Supt Bk Mint
New Orleans

April 16. 1858

April 16 8.

Sir

Referring to your communication of the 20th ult. requesting me to order an hydraulic press for the Melter & Refiner of your Branch Mint I have to state that the lowest price for which the same can be made, is one thousand (1000) dollars. If your ordinary fund is in a condition to allow the expenditure of the above amount I will have the press made. I may add that the press in use at the Mint and also one made a few years since in this City for the Mint Assay Office cost considerable more than the amount above stated.

I am, very Respectfully,

James Rep Snowden

Director of the Mint.

Logan McKnight Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans.

To
Logan McKnight Esq
Supt Pr Mint
N. O.

Cost of Hydraulic Press

April 16. 1858.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, April 1st 1858

Sir

Please order for use of workmen in Melting Depth a box containing a few dozen India Rubber Gloves - such as are commended to your judgment & charge to account this Branch Mint.

I am Sir Rey & Obt Servt
Logan W Knight
Supt

To
James Ross Snowden Esq
Director Mint U.S.
Philadelphia

4 Doz pair ordered
April 24. 1858. —
HRL

From Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

A few doz pair
acid gloves
ordered.

April 24. 1838.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans. Apl 19 1858

Sir: | The rude sketch herewith will indicate an arrangement of the rooms which I have been enabled finally to accomplish by which the Assayer and Ass^t Treas^r U. S. are greatly benefit-ted and the various officers of the working Deptmt are made to act more in unison and harmony. The change has been accomplished by the diversion to Governmental use of three rooms heretofore used by Supts, who preceded me, for their own use. | Let me have your assent to this distribution at the earliest mo-ment as also please advise if Secy Treasy has replied to my letter touching the abolishing of office of

"Messenger" and substitution therefor of the "Supr Clerk" according to your Printed Instructions.

I shall also be pleased to hear at earliest moment as to my application for leave of absence. The Reasons for asking that leave have now become imperative upon me and I shall have to make the journey whether the Government consent or not — but as the public interest has never yet suffered at my hands so it shall not even though my health forbid my presence this summer here. Dr Bonzano has always acted as Supts during the absence of my predecessors and has agreed to do so for me — The duties will be mainly cared for by the Supr Clerk. I shall be glad to have telegraph on the subject. Very Resply Your Obt Sevt

Logan McKnight Supt

To James Ross Snowden Esq
Director Mint U.S.

From Supt R. Mint

New Orleans

Arrangement of
rooms to go into
effect May 1.

April 29, 1838.

Supts Office, Repairs Branch Mint.
New Orleans, La. April 16th 1858.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following Report, in conformity with Department instructions of the 2nd inst. calling upon me to examine into the extent, character, cost and necessity, of certain changes in the occupancy of Mint rooms proposed by the Supt. Logan McKnight, Esq., and the effect of these changes upon the future occupation of the same rooms, for other purposes than those intended by Mr. McKnight.

The proposed occupancy involves the following changes in the basement, and on the 1st and 2nd floors, viz:-

1st floor. In transferring the present office of the Supt. (No 5.) to (No. 19.); transferring the Assayer, now in (13 & 14) - to (18. 19. 20. & 21.) second floor.

2nd floor. In transferring the Coiner, now in possession of Nos. 19. 20. & 21. to the corresponding rooms on the other side, viz:- Nos. 22. 23. & 24. now occupied by the Melter & Refiner, and again replacing the latter, by turning over to the Melter & Refiner the old Assaying Department, viz:- rooms. Nos 25. 26. 27 and 28. on the second floor.

Basement. - In transferring the Assist. Treasurer from the basement rooms under Nos. 1 and 2. with the Treasury Vault under 3. - to the present office of the Supt. No 5. and in enlarging the vault of this room (6) by taking in No 7. a wedge shaped room, or eddy under the stairs.

The basement rooms under the first floor rooms. Nos. 1 & 2. with their Vault under 2. to be given to the Melter & Refiner. Viz:— the room under 2. for the erection of a hydraulic press; the room under 1 with its vault. for a deposit for the sweep.

The Kitchens in the basement under 13. & 14 on the first floor, together with Nos. 14. 15. 16 and 17. on the second floor, are to be given, by the new arrangement, to the Supt's Clerk.

In consequence of the five officers in charge of the several Mint Departments, two are in favor of the change viz:— the Supt. Mr. McKnight — and the Assist. Treasurer. Mr. Guiot; the other three. viz:- the Melter & Refiner — Dr. Bongard. the Coiner — Dr. Taylor.; and the Assayer. Mr. Millspaugh are opposed to the change.

The following are the reasons, pro. & con. which they severally assign, as individually affecting their different departments.

Superintendent. Mr. McKnight states that he wishes by the change. to take the Asst. Treasurer out of the basement, which is damp, and owing to the position, badly lighted;— that it puts the Asst. Treas. and Mint Treas. (both offices held by Mr. Guiot) in a suite of rooms on the same floor, the communication only being the crossing of the main entrance hall; and that the dining room. (No. 13) hitherto used as a residence by the Supt. will be given up for Mint purposes:— that this room (No 13) being on a main gallery, and hence accessible to the other Mint officers and

the public, requiring no change other than walling up the door communicating with the parlour (14) will answer very well as an office for the Superintendent.

Assistant Treasurer:— Mr. Guriot, in his letter of requisition on the Supdt. for his present offices bases it on the grounds that he understands the Supdt is about to vacate it. He also states that this change brings the Asst. Treasurer and Treasurer of the Mint, on the same floor, and that it is more accessible to himself and to the public, than his present rooms in the basement. He furthermore states that the basement rooms are damp and unhealthy — especially in wet weather. The convenience of being on the same floor with both the Sub Treasury ~~Offices~~ and Mint Treasury, offices, arises from the fact that Mr. Guriot's duties call him more generally in the Sub Treasury Office, and the Porter, in getting his signature to Mint Treasury papers, has go down the stairs in (2), instead of crossing the main entrance Hall.

Cashier:— The Cashier makes the following objections to the proposed change. 1st that strangers and the public generally in communicating with the Supdt in the new office proposed, (No. 13) are obliged to pass by his desk and weigh-rooms Nos. 8 & 10, between which, the coin and bullion for which he is responsible are constantly passing, throughout every working hour of the day.

Access to the proposed office of the Supdt. only being had by a passage through the working departments, wherein Coin and bullion are exposed, a door-keeper, or janitor, will be necessary, to accompany to and fro, all persons not

belonging to the Mint, who may desire an interview with that officer.

The Coiner, also states, that his present Vault. (No. 9.) is not large enough for the purposes of his department, and that it is desirable, to connect the proposed enlargement (?) with his present Vault. in order to give him additional facilities for security.

He furthermore states that his present working room, is of the smallest possible capacity, and that it cannot be reduced by giving up Nos. 19, 20, and 21. on the second floor, without receiving in return, the corresponding rooms on the other side, Nos. 22, 23 and 24.; and that even this change is not advisable, because that No. 20. is designed as a private Machine Shop for the manufacture of dies &c. and being directly opposite to the main Machine Shop, he can erect his machinery in No. 20. with great advantage and at inconsiderable expense, by connecting it with the machinery of the Main Machine Shop; — an advantage which he states, no. 23. on the other side, does not possess

Melter & Refiner. — The Melter & Refiner, on the other hand decidedly objects to giving up Rooms nos. 22. 23. & 24. even when receiving in return the old Assaying department. Nos. 25, 26, and 27 & 28. and the two basement rooms now occupied by the Assist. Treasurer.

Assayer: — The Assayer, temporarily located

account of the repairs, but permanently fixed and fitted up in rooms Nos 13 and 14, on the first floor, objects to moving back to his old quarters, on the second floor (nos. 25. 26. 27. and 28.) for the following reasons: viz:- that these rooms are directly over the Melting department, and that in summer time, the heat is insupportable;- that besides, the breaking up of pots, the trundling of the Bullion cars, and the jarring of the Melting & Refining machinery, affects the accuracy of his assays to that degree, that he frequently was obliged to suspend his operations, when in those rooms.

The rooms (13 & 14) now occupied by him are free from these objections, being in the most ~~retired~~ quiet and retired portion of the building, and away from the machinery of the other departments.

Cost:- The cost involved in these changes will be as follows:-

1st To enlarge the Vault (No. 6) by taking into it No. 7.

2nd Walling up the door leading from 13 to 14.

The Vault enlargement, including new lock and making it conform to the corresponding under the stairway, on the other side (No. 4) will cost. $450.00

Walling up door way, and furnishing some 28.00

$475.00

In addition there will be the removal of the Assayer and refitting him up, either in Nos. 18, 19, 20 and 21 or in his old rooms (Nos. 25, 26, 27 and 28.). Which will

cost about $900.00, making the total cost of changes proposed - - - - - - - - $775.00

There is an abundance of room, and to spare, in the Mint for all of the different departments, if only properly distributed.

The late Supt. of the Mint, occupied as a residence, the Kitchens under 13 & 14 - rooms Nos. 13 & 14 on the first floor, and rooms Nos. 15, 16, 17, and 18, on the second floor. The first and second stories of this portion of the building, are built with groined arches and I consider that it was always injudicious to occupy them for any other purposes, than the operations of the Mint proper

The present changes proposed, with the expenses attending them, and the objections urged to the same, by the several officers in charge of working departments, arises simply on a question of residence, viz:- Shall these rooms Nos. 14, 15, 16 and 17, be given to the Supts Clerk as a residence, in part payment of his compensation, at the expense of the working departments of the Mint, or shall they be turned over to the Mint operations proper

By letting the Assayer remain in Nos 13 & 14, and giving him, in addition Nos. 15, and 16, on the second floor for lumber and store rooms, Rooms Nos. 17 and 18 may be attached to the Coining department, now sufficiently cramped, and rooms Nos. 25, 26, 27 & 28 may be attached to the Melting & Refining department

as a deposite for sweeps for the erection of the hydraulic press and other new machinery, recently received by this department.

This arrangement of rooms is attended with no expense, and consolidates the departments of the Coinier and Melter & Refiner, and locates the Assayer in that portion of the building which is most retired, and freest from the jars of machinery &c. and which is, in consequence, the most suitable for the delicate operations of his department,

On the other hand, the changes in the offices of the Superintendent and the Assist. Treasurer, seems entirely uncalled for, and unnecessary.

These two officers deal exclusively with the public, and consequently their offices should be easy of access, and so located that the public, in communicating with either, would not have to approach, or pass the neighborhood of the working departments, wherein the Coin and bullion for which the Coinier and Melter & Refiner are responsible, are openly exposed

Hence the great objection to the removal of the Supts office to No. 13. which is only accessible to the public by encroaching on the Coinier.

The present office (No. 5) is where it should be, directly at the main entrance, and hence free from the above objections

The Assist Treasurer and Mint Treasurer offices

(both under one head) were originally confined to Nos. 1 & 2, with their Vaults 3 & 4 on the first floor. For want of sufficient room, the basement rooms under 1 & 2, with the Vault under 3, with the same capacity as 3, were turned over to this office.

The Vaults were large and capacious, affording every facility for the security of this department No. 3 and the one under it being 19' 1" X 11' 11", and No 4, which, at present is used for no purpose whatever and which is the size that the Vault in the Supts office would be, if enlarged, is 6' 1" X 18' 9"

A stairway leads from the basement room under No 2, up to the latter, thus consolidating and bringing these two departments as much together as possible.

Besides the Asst. Treasurer office, or Sub. Treasury in the basement, and the Mint Treasury on the first floor, have each their respective and direct entrance, making the ingress and egress of the public easy and accessible and without encroaching on any of the working departments.

The Mint Building is situated on high ground for this City, and consequently is no damper than other houses in its vicinity, the ground floors of which are habitually occupied and lived on at all times and seasons.

The floor of these basement rooms are bad

however, and it has always been proposed in the repairs to renew them. In doing so, which will be done in a short time, the new floor will be laid on a concrete bed, which will free the rooms from all dampness whatever,

As to want of light, the Sub. Treasurers office has two front windows in it, which are not covered by the portico, the shade of which alone can obstruct the light

I consider it very questionable, whether the vault in the Supdts office when enlarged so as to be 6'-1" X 18-9", would be large enough for the service of the Sub Treasury Department

Judging from the room required, or used in the present vault, I should say that it would not be.

The vault in the Supdts office is at present of the following dimensions, viz:- 6'-1" X 6'-1" and 7'-2" high. It is bounded by brick walls, and the top is formed by the granite landing of the main hall stairway. It has double iron door-ways, hung on iron frame, attached to the masonry and to a granite lintel.

I would, therefore, respectfully recommend for the foregoing reasons, that no portion of the ground arched rooms be used for recorders, but be assigned to the Assaying Department

and that the offices of the Supt and Assa Treasurer be allowed to remain as they are present, as by this arrangement more roo will be given to the working departments of Mint proper, and the public interests wil be furthered thereby

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
J. K. Duncan
Supt Mt

Hon. Howell Cobb (Signed)
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City
D. C.

Copy

Capt Duncans

Report

Arrangement
rooms Rd Mint
New Orleans
April 16. 1881.

U.S. Mint New Orleans

Duplicate

Vouchers

Appendix

April 22, 1853.

ARAMINGO CHEMICAL WORKS.

Philadelphia, November 16 1857

United States Mint for Branch Mint. N.O.

Bought of MORO PHILLIPS,

Terms.

Manufacturer of

Oil of Vitriol, Aqua Fortis, Nitric and Muriatic Acids, Copperas, Blue Vitriol, Nitrate of Lead.

Nov 12. 50 Carboys Nitric Acid.
123. 122. 112, 125. 125. 124, 124. 118. 115, 114. 127, 127.
128. 141, 129. 136, 125. 131, 121. 122, 112. 102. 130, 109
107. 115, 112. 121, 125. 121, 125. 138, 119. 120, 114. 124
135, 125, 145, 113, 130, 121, 140, 133, 120, 120, 133, 118
107. 137 = 6160 lbs a 7 85 48356
50 Carboys a 1 50 7500
50 Caps. for do 12½ 625
$ 564 81

Rec'd payment Moro Phillips

Philad.a Nov 16. 1857 of James Ross Snowden Esq Director the Amount of the above Bill

Moro Phillips

Moro Phillips Esq
$564.81
Nov 16. 1857 —

ARAMINGO CHEMICAL WORKS.

Philadelphia. January 30 1858.

United States Branch Mint. N. O.

Bought of MORO PHILLIPS,

Manufacturer of

Terms.

Oil of Vitrol, Aqua Fortis, Nitric and Muriatic Acids, Copperas, Blue Vitrol, Nitrate of Lead.

1 Box Fused Borax 57 lbs a 85 ¢ — $ 48 45

Received Payment of the above Bill from James Ross Snowden Esq Director

Moro Phillips

Mrs Phillips
$48.45

Melba N Boray

Jan 30. 1858.

Treas'r.
Please pay
H R S

ARAMINGO CHEMICAL WORKS.

Philadelphia, February 1858

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans

Co MORO PHILLIPS, Dr.

Terms.

Manufacturer of

Oil of Vitrol, Aqua Fortis, Nitric and Muriatic Acids, Copperas, Blue Vitrol, Nitrate of Lead.

22 Carboys Nitric acid

128	127				
128	120				
119	128				
130	127				
118	122				
128	108				
112	114				
122	110				
120	114				
128	111				
130	120				
1354	1326	= 2680 lbs	@	7⅝	21038
22 Carboys			@	1.50	33 00
22 Cases for do				12½	2 75
					$246 13

Rec'd pay't
Moro Phillips

Mon Phillips

$246.13

Feb 25. 1888

Philadelphia Dec 8th 1857

United States Branch Mint at New Orleans &c

To John W Henry

Oct 17	To 12 Ozs 9 Dwts		80	9	60

Correct
James B. Longacre

Received Payment
John W. Henry

Duplicate

Br. Mint

New Orleans

$9.60

Dec 26, 1839.

ARAMINGO CHEMICAL WORKS.

Philadelphia, April 6 1858

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans

Bought of **MORO PHILLIPS,**

Terms.

Manufacturer of

Oil of Vitrol, Aqua Fortis, Nitric and Muriatic Acids, Copperas, Blue Vitrol, Nitrate of Lead.

312	Crucibles	4 – 1248	@ 6¼ ℔	78 00
19	Dipping Pots		@ 38 ℔	7 22
300	Covers	6	@ 18¾	56 25
46	"	30	@ 63 ℔	28 98
200	"	40	@ 75 ℔	150 00
		2 Casks	@ 100	200
				$322 45

Rec'd payt
Moro Phillips

Moro Phillips
$322.45

April 17. 1888.

ARAMINGO CHEMICAL WORKS.

Philadelphia, March 2nd 1858

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans.

Bought of MORO PHILLIPS,

Manufacturer of

Oil of Vitrol, Aqua Fortis, Nitric and Muriatic Acids, Copperas, Blue Vitrol, Nitrate of Lead.

Terms.

2 Casks Cont'g		
444 Sand Crucibles a 33 ea	146	52
2 Casks a 1.00 ea	2	00
	$ 148	52

Thud pay't
Moro Phillips

Mow Phillips

$148.52

April 17, 1858.—

with James Ross Snowden Esq. Director &c — D.J.

			Dollars	Cents
57 Nov	16	For this Amount paid Mord Phillips (Acid)	564	81
Dec	26	For this Amount paid J. St. Henry (Bitumen)	9	60
58 Jan	30	For this Amount paid Mord Phillips (Garnet)	48	45
Feb	25	For this Amount paid Mord Phillips (Acid)	246	13
April	17	For this Amount paid Mord Phillips (Bricks)	470	97
		Balance		
			1949	80

Cr. The Treasurer of the Branch Mint New Orleans in account

1857			Dollars	Cents
January	1	By Balance	184	05
February	14	By proceeds of assay coins 1856	641	60
July	22	By this amount, being excess in silver ingots in payment of draft for $1000,000	122	50
1858 March	3	By proceeds of assay coins 1857	1,001	65
			1,949	80

April 22 Cr. $609.89

J. R. Snowden.
Director of the Mint

April 22 8.

Sir

I present herewith account current with Your Treasurer and enclose vouchers for the items charged therein. The account exhibits a balance to his credit of $609.84.

Enclosed I send for your information a statement of acids, crucibles &c, shipped to Your Branch Mint by Moro Phillips, and paid for by the Treasurer of the Mint with funds advanced by the Treasury Department for that purpose from Your Ordinary Expense appropriation and which he accounts for direct to the Department.

I recently made a requisition on the Treasury Department for $1303.30 on a/c of your Br Mint (to enable the Treasurer of the Mint to pay for crucibles &c) and have to request that in your requisitions on the Department you will abstain from drawing

for that amount.

I am, very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Logan ell. Cought Esq.
Supt Branch Mint,
New Orleans.

To
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Ve current
presented.

April 22, 1858.

Treasury Department
April 23d 1858

Sir

In acknowledging certain communications on the subject of changing the occupation of the rooms in the Branch Mint at New Orleans on the 12th inst, I informed you that I had called upon the ~~Superintendent~~ of repairs for a report upon the effect and expediency of the proposed changes of occupation.

I have to day received his report which I herewith enclose with the accompanying diagram, which will enable you to understand his views, and will be obliged by your opinion on them at your early convenience. I will thank you to return the original, but as the matter may lead to direct correspondence with you, a copy may be returned in your office if you think proper.

Very respectfully
Your obed Servt
Howell Cobb
Secretary of the Treasury

I. Ross. Snowden Esq
Director of the Mint
Phila

From the Sec Treasury

Enclosing Report

Capt Duncan Supt
Repairs Ry Mint
New Orleans, and
desires my views
thereon —

April 24, 1866.

To The Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

In relation to arrangement of rooms at the Branch Mint at New Orleans. — Return Report & diagrams of Capt Duncan and Eaden Extract from Supt letter and Sketch of arrangement of rooms to take effect May 1st. —

April 26 1837

April 26. 8.

Sir,

I have duly considered the subject presented to my attention in your favor of the 23d inst. So far as I can understand the case as presented by the reports and diagrams I concur in the opinions expressed by Capt Duncan. But as the Superintendent, Mr McKnight, has voluntarily yielded a portion of the building which was heretofore occupied by ~~the~~ his predecessors for their private use, and now desires some of the rooms to be used by his messenger (or clerk). I would recommend that (instead of the occupancy of the rooms as a residence) ~~that~~ Mr McKnight be permitted to increase the compensation of the employé in question, who may also perform the clerical duties which are described in the Regulations as pertaining to the "Superintendents Clerk."

In thus expressing my general concurrence in the views presented by Capt. Duncan I beg also to add that it is highly desirable that the arrangement of the rooms shewn, as far as it is possible be satisfactory to all the officers of the institution, as they are the best judges of the convenience & working of their several departments and arrangements for business;

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful Servant
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Hon. Hamilton Cobb.
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

Postscript.

I also the drawings were prepared - I have received a communication from Mr W. Knight, Supt. to, under date of April 19 — an extract from the

together with a "Sketch" of the room, is herewith enclosed. It appears that the arrangement therein stated is satisfactory to the officers. If so, I think it should be adopted; although it modifies to some extent the dispositions of the rooms recommended by Capt. Duncan.

L. R. V.

Treasury Department
April 27th 1858

Sir

Your letter of the 21st inst is received, returning the Report of Capt Duncan upon the occupation of the Rooms in the Branch Mint building at New Orleans, with the observations of several concurrence in his opinions.

In your instruction an extract of a letter from the Superintendent is referred to, and his sketch of the department is sent, which I have with return. You suggest that the arrangements stated by the Supt appear to be satisfactory to the officers — and if so should be adopted.

This Department of course would not interfere with such arrangement of the rooms for the public service as may be made by agreement among the officers charged with duties of so much responsibility, with your approbation. The report of Capt Duncan presents however the views of each officer in regard to his necessary accommodation. How far the sketch of the Supt corresponds with those views and whether they have acquiesced in the latter arrangement, is a matter of detail which I shall leave for your determination. But I would suggest that there is nothing in the extract from the Supt letter from which it can be inferred that the Coiner has withdrawn the serious and substantial objection, stated in Capt Duncan's report against the removal of the officers of the Superintendent and his

his clerks into the gallery through which his operations must of necessity pass every morning hour of the day. It may appear from other portions of the letter that the Coiner has assented to making this gallery a place of public resort — if not, I should doubt whether the hazard to which he is exposed might be increased without his express consent, and without public necessity. Unless therefore the Coiner has expressly waived his objections to the proposed location of the Superintendent's office, it seems to me it should not take place.

As the Branch Mint may be established at New Orleans for the manufacture of precious metals into coin, the personal convenience of individual officers and employees must be required to give place to that object. Instead of introducing new occupants into the building with their families as is ordered by the Superintendent's Clerk, it is obvious that at no distant time such officers as now have family accommodations there, must be required to surrender them for the operations of the Mint. Mr. Mc Knight should be informed accordingly, that his clerk cannot be provided with a residence in the building for his family. And I must withhold my sanction to your suggestion that his Compensation should be increased [redacted] an equivalent for not providing him with a family residence. I am

respectfully

unable to recognise the public obligation to provide any of the officers or employees of the Mint with residences, a paying them an equivalent in money — which would inevitably be inferred from such increase.

You will therefore give the proper directions to the Superintendent. As it appears from his memo on the sketch that he intends the arrangements to go into effect on the 1st proxo by which time your letter will not reach him by mail, I would suggest that should you not sanction the proposed change in his office, you should so apprise him by telegraph — and at any rate you should inform him that his Clerk must not remove his family into the building.

Very respectfully
your obedt Servt
Howell Cobb
Secretary of Treasury

J. Ross Snowden Esq
Director of the Mint
Phila

From
Sec Treasury
Washington City

Respecting arrangement
of rooms at the Mint
New Orleans. —

May 1. 1851.

May

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Apl 29 1858

Sir:

The coiner desires me to have prepared a set of dies for the use of the Summer. I therefore forward you the following requisition viz:

6 Heads Half Dollars
12 Reverses do

Rey & Obt Servt
Cogan W Knight
Supt

Co James Ross Snowden Esq
Director Mint
Phila

From Logan McKnight
Supt Rr Mont
New Orleans. —

Requisition
for die

May 8th 1858. —

April 29. 8.

Sir,

In compliance with the request contained in your recent letter I have caused to be sent to you (per Adams Express Co.) four dozen pair of long acid rubber gloves for the Melter & Refiners department.

I have received your letter in relation to procuring a medal for Dr. Kane; and have placed the matter in the hands of J. B. Longacre Esq. who will communicate with Gov. Pickliffe on the subject.

I am, Very Respectfully,
James Pollock
Director of the Mint

Logan McKnight Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans

To
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

India Rubber
Gloves forwarded

April 29, 1858.

~~Initials~~

Treasury Department.
Comptroller's Office.
April 30th 1858.

James Ross Snowden, Esq.
Director of the Mint.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Herewith Enclosed I transmit, for your proper action, the official bond of R. F. Taylor, Coiner appointed of the Branch of the Mint at New Orleans.

I am, respectfully,
Your obt. Servant.
W. Medill
Comptroller.

From to
Comptroller Treasury
Washington

Official Bond
B. F. Taylor Comm
Br Mint
New Orleans endorsed
returned with
my approval

May 1, 1838.

May 1. 8

Sir,

I received this morning your letter of yesterday enclosing the official bond of W. H. Taylor Esq, as coiner of the Branch Mint at New Orleans which I have certified is to my satisfaction and herewith return to the Department.

I have the honor to be
With great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden.
Director of the Mint.

Hon. Mr. Medill,
Com. Dr. Oller,
Treasury Department,
Washington

NEW ORLEANS- 1858 (CONT.)

May 1. 8.

Sir.

A day or two before I received your letter of the 19th ult. I received a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury referring to my consideration a report from Capt. Duncan Supt. of repairs, on the same subject. On a careful examination of the report and diagrams, I felt bound to express a general concurrence in the views of the Superintendent. But after I had come to this conclusion I received your letter in which you seem to state that you had been able to make an arrangement which was satisfactory to the several officers of the Branch Mint. Being anxious to have the arrangement satisfactory to all the officers, if possible, I suggested that it should be arranged in the way I then proposed if it was, as I inferred, then satisfactory.

In order that you may more fully be informed on this subject I enclose a copy of my

letter to the Department, and the reply from the Secretary of the Treasury.

I have now to state that if the operative Officers have acquiesced in your plan it may be carried into effect, except that part of it which provides for the occupation of rooms as a residence for your Messenger or clerk. As this part of the arrangement must be abandoned, and the other parts of your plan were doubtless predicated upon it, I am of opinion that the arrangement of the rooms as proposed by Capt. Duncan will, all things being considered, be the best, and I recommend its adoption.

I will hereafter recur to the matter of the compensation of your Messenger as some misapprehension exists on this point at Washington.

I am very Respectfully

James Ross Snow
Director of the Mint

Logan McKnight Esq
Supt Br. Mint
New Orleans.

To

Supt R. Smith

New Orleans

La

Arrangement of rooms

Supt Ebert must

not move his family

in until building

May 1, 1885.

~~My dear~~

Copy T/D to
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

"Make no arrangement
of rooms until you hear
from me by letter."
(Signed) J R S.
Director
May 1, 1888.

T/D copy

To Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

No arrangement
to be made of
rooms until
letter is rec^d from
me.

~~April~~ 3
May 1. 1858.

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans. May 4th 1858

Sir,

Enclosed you will please find statements from Treasurer of Deposits and Coinage, and coins received for assay during the month of April 1858, also the usual statement of the Condition of this Branch Mint for the week ending may 1st 1858. The assay coins will be transmitted to Philadelphia by to-morrow's mail.

Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant
Asgill Knight
Superintendent

To James Ross Snowden Esq
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia
Pa

From Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Assay Coins
& Reports thereof

May 12, 1838.

May 12. 5.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th. inst. with the enclosures stated, also a package containing the assay coins of your branch Mint for the month of April last.

I have to request that hereafter, in presenting, in your monthly reports, the amount of foreign gold and silver bullion deposited at your branch of the Mint, you will state the country from whence the same is derived.

I am very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Logan McKnight Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, May 8 1858

Sir

I have appointed & beg to advise thereof, for your confirmation, John H. Alpuente Esq (now Superintendents Clerk) as Acting Superintendent Branch Mint New Orleans. I have thought it best to substitute Mr Alpuente in my place & not one of the Working Officers of the Mint — as his duties are now those of a Deputy Supt and there is none danger of a conflict of the duties of Supt (Acting) & Melter, Coiner, or Assayer —

Rey Sr Obt Servt
Cyan W Knight
Supt

To
James Ross Snowden Esq
Director Mint
U. Tat Phila

From Logan McKnight Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Appointment
of John H Alpuente
act. Supt.

May 16. 1853.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, May 8th 1858

Sir,

As you have been advised by Mr. M. Knight I have been appointed by him Acting Superintendent of this Branch Mint during his absence from this city as per leave granted by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Mc. Knight left yesterday suddenly being very unwell and I have this day entered upon the discharge of the duties of acting Supdt. I would respectfully request of you the confirmation or further orders on the subject without delay.

Your respectfully
Obt. Servt.
John H. Alexander
Acting Supdt.

From
John H. Alpuente
Supt. Clerk
Br Mint
New Orleans

Reports his appointment as act Supt.

May 16. 1858.

"Copy"

Branch Mint May 8th 1858.

Sir,

The Superintendent in appointing you acting Superintendent does not state by what authority of law or instructions he appoints you. —

Before we can consider ourselves competent and authorized to act under your orders, we would respectfully request to be furnished with a copy of such authority, if there be any given to him.

If there be no other authority than Sect 4 of the general Mint law which gives power to the Director (extended by Sect 5th of the Act of March 3rd 1835 to the Supdts) to appoint in case of absences any person connected with the Mint, in place of any officer except himself, then we would respectfully beg of you to accord us a few hours delay, so that we may avail ourselves of the opinion of the U.S. District Attorney, as to the validity of your appointment. It is almost superfluous to state that in case the opinion of the District attorney should sustain your appointment, we shall most cheerfully obey your orders.

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servts
"Signed" M. F. Bonyard
Melter & Refiner
B. F. Taylor
Coiner
H. Millspaugh
Asayer

~~Signed~~:
To J. H. Alpuente Esqr

Answer

Gentlemen,

In answer to your communication of this date, I have only to say that I have been appointed as acting Superintendent by the Superintendent of this Branch Mint. I have no desire no

inclination to enter into a legal disquisition as to the right of the Superintendent to make this appointment. As to your request to have a few hours to consult with the U. S. District attorney I have neither the authority nor the wish to grant or refuse it. You may take any course of action you may think fit, I on my part will act as acting Superintendent taking & leaving to every one their own official responsibility.

Very Respectfully
Signed: John H. Alpuente
acting Supdt.

To Mess. Bonzano, Taylor & Millspaugh
Melter & Refiner, Coiner & Assayer.
New Orleans May 8th 1858.

After consultation and advice with the Honble Thomas J Semmes, U. S. District attorney, we have come to the conclusion to continue the operations in our respective departments so as to avoid inconvenience to the Community and injury to the public interest, unless your appointment should be dis-approved of by the proper authorities. We have asked of Mr. Semmes a written opinion as to the validity of your appointment, and our opinion will be guided thereby. If the opinion of the District attorney should be adverse to the validity of your appointment we shall nevertheless continue the work in our respective departments until the question now pending shall be definitely settled by the department.

Signed: M. F. Bonzano Melter & Refiner
B. F. Taylor Coiner
Do John H. Alpuente Esq
acting Supdt. U. S. Branch
Mint. N. O. May 8th (4 P. M.) 1858

In answer to this I have only to reiterate what I have stated in my communication of the 8th inst. I have nothing more to add except to assure you that I will not shrink from any official responsibility, leaving the matter to be decided by the only proper authorities to wit: the Hon. the Secretary of the Treasury & the Director of the Mint

Very Respectfully

(Signed) John H. Alpuente
acting Supdt.

N. O. May 9th 1858.

To mess. Bonzano Melter & Refiner
& U. S. Assayer Corner.

(Copy)

U. S. District Attorney's office
May 10th 1858

I am of the opinion that the 4th section of the Mint Act approved 18th January 1837 authorizes the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans in case of his temporary absence to designate to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia some person to fill his place during his absence, but such designation is not binding on the Government nor is the person thus designated actually appointed until the Director of the Mint approves of the selection made by the Supdt.

The Superintendent having left the ~~State~~ before the ~~approval~~ approval of Mr. Alpuentes nomination by the Director of the Mint, I think the officers of the Mint should respect the inchoate appointment of Mr. Alpuente until the Director of the mint signifies his approval or disapproval of the selection made by the Superintendent, otherwise the operations of the Mint should be arrested and the public interests might suffer. So far as the officers of the Mint are concerned I see no other course to be pursued, as they cannot undertake to decide upon the validity of the offi-

acts of the Superintendent
Signed: Thos. J. Semmes
U S Attorney.

Branch Mint May 8th 1858

Sir,

We would respectfully invite your attention to the foregoing correspondence and beg of you to give us the benefit of your experience and legal knowledge by expressing your opinion on the points at issue in the discussion pending between Mr. J. H. Alpuente, appointed acting Superintendent and ourselves.

Very Respectfully
Your Obl. Servts
Signed: M. F. Bonzano
Melter & Refiner
B. F. Taylor, Coiner
H. Millspaugh, Assayer

To A. J. Guirot Esq
Treasurer of the Branch Mint.

Gentlemen, May 10th

In as much as before addressing the foregoing note to me you had asked the Acting Superintendent a few hours delay to "avail yourselves of the opinion of the U. S. District attorney as to the validity of his appointment" I thought that the only course I had to pursue was to wait for the expression of the legal opinion of that public functionary. The opinion asked for has been given and entered in this Record Book, I have no cause to regret the course I have deemed prudent to pursue since the opinion of the District Attorney is: "that the officers of this Branch Mint" cannot undertake to decide the validity of the official acts of the Superintendent"

To Mess. M. F. Bonzano, B. F. Taylor & H. Millspaugh Officers U. S. Branch Mint.

Very Respectfully
Signed A. J. Guirot, Treasurer

Copy

Correspondence between
Operative Officers
Br Mint New Orleans
and John H. Alpuente
Supt Clerk, also,
Opinion of U. S.
District Attorney
as to validity of
Mr Alpuente
appointment as
Act Supt. &c

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, May 9th 1858.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated May 1st with the enclosed copy of correspondence between you & the Hon. the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to the Rooms of this Branch Mint.

I have only to say that your instructions & those of the Secretary will be followed. The Supt. elect has not moved his family in the Mint and will not do so. The projected arrangement made by Mr. McKnight the Supt. and accepted by all the officers, was subjected entirely to your orders & those of the Secretary of the Treasury, not having as yet received those orders the proposed arrangement which was to take effect on the First of May has not been perfected & of course your instructions of the 1st of May will be

complied with.

As to the raising of the Salary of the Supdt. Clerk which you were pleased to ask from the Secretary of the Treasury, as a compensation for his non residence at the Mint, I beg leave to decline to say any thing on the subject in my present capacity being personnally interested, as I am the Supdt. Clerk. — Very Respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

Wm. Helpuente

acting Supdt.

To James Ross Snowden Esq

Director U. S. Mint

Philadelphia

Pa

From

John H. Alpuente
"Supts Clerk"
Br Mont Fentrhouse

Instructions as to arrangement of rooms will be complied with. —

May 17. 1858 —

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, May 9th 1858.

Sir,

On the 5th of February last the Supdt. Mr. McKnight forwarded an order to Moro Phillips for 4 Carboys Chemically Pure Nitric Acid for the use of the Assayer of this Branch Mint. I have as yet received no advice of the Shipment. As these articles will be wanted soon by the assayer, you will please order them again from Mr. Moro Phillips, if not already shipped — if shipped please advise of the name of the vessel.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
John H. Alpuente
acting Supdt.

Jane E Walsh
66 Nitric — 4 Chemically pure —

To James Ross Snowden Esq
Director U. S. Mint. Philadelphia.

From & To
Logan McKnight
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Name of vessel
by which Mrs Phillips

Shipped 4 carboys
Nitric acid (chemically
pure) —

May 18. 1838 —

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, May 9th 1858.

Sir,

As clerk of the Superintendent of this Branch Mint I have taken the oath required by law a due certified copy of which I have the honor herewith to transmit.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
John A. Hymens
acting Supt.

To Col. James Ross Snowden
Director U.S. Mint
Philadelphia
Pa.

Branch Mint N. O.
May 10th 1858.

Sir:

A letter from ourselves and Dr. Bonjano will reach you by this mail in relation to the action of L. McKnight Esqr. our Sup. in the matter of appointing an acting Superintendent, during his absence.

We have frequently been assured by Mr. McK. and confidently believed, that Dr. Bonjano would be the acting Sup: until the morning after Mr McK's departure. Dr. B.s long connexion with the Mint; his thorough knowledge of the business in all of the departments; his strict fidelity to the interest of the Government, and the high respect entertained for him by the officers & employees of the Mint, and the public; point to him as the proper person for the position.

We therefore would most respectfully request that you may not approve of the appointment of one J. H. Alpuente, late Messenger, who is quite a young man without any experience or knowledge in Mint business; who is moreover the Step-son of the Treasurer, and who, we believe, was only appointed to annoy and humiliate the officers, and impede the operations of this Branch Mint.

Respectfully, Your Obd Servants
B. F. Taylor Coiner.
H. Millspaugh Assayer

J. R. Snowden Esqr.
Director of Mint
Philada.

From [illegible]

The Operative Officers
Br. Mint
New Orleans

Protesting against
appointment of John
H. Alpuente as act
Supt.

May 17, 1837

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
May 10th 1858.

Dear Sir,

Our Superintendent, Mr. Logan McKnight, left this city on Friday afternoon the 7th inst., on his European tour. As he left no official notice of his departure, or of the person designated to represent him, we deemed it our duty to call upon him on board of the Steamboat, to receive his orders. The fact of there being no one designated on the "Order Book" to represent him, was duly brought to his notice, when he stated that he had written to the department for authority to appoint Mr Bonzano Acting Superintendent, and in the mean time he requested him (Mr. B) to act for him, saying further that his clerk (a newly appointed officer) had a letter of instructions which he (the clerk) would paste upon the "Order Book". We all called upon the Clerk and related what the Superintendent had stated, when he answered that he would see these instructions, and if it was proper to communicate them to us, he would do so. On the following day, shortly after 9 o'clock A M. the following order appeared on the Order Book!

U. S Branch Mint,
New Orleans May 8th 1858

(Copy)

Sir, I hereby appoint you as acting Superintendent of Branch Mint during my temporary absence as granted by the Secretary of the Treasury to me.

And for all and each of your acts as acting Superintendent, I am and will be truly bound to the Government.

Your Obt. Servant
Logan McKnight
Superintendent

To J. H. Alpuente (signed)
Superintendent's Clerk

A true copy of the original on file
New Orleans May 8th 1858
(Signed) John H. Alpuente
Clk

Turn over

Mr. Alpuente admits that he has on his person another letter, of the Superintendent, Mr. McKnight, authorising Dr. Bonzano to act as Superintendent, but insists that it is entirely left to his discretion whether to act in that capacity himself, or to authorise Dr. Bonzano to do so.

We respectfully beg of you to examine into this matter and instruct us.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servants
M. F. Bonzano
Assay Examiner
A. Millispaugh
Assayer
R. P. Taylor
Coiner.

To James Ross Snowden, Esq.,
Director of the U.S. Mint
Philadelphia
Pa

Branch Mint of the U.S.

Treasury Office, New Orleans, May 11, 1858

Sir,

In compliance with your request I have read with particular care the Documents to which you have directed my attention. I have also taken into consideration the other matters on which you desire information.

It is to my personal knowledge and to that of every one attached to this Branch Mint, and the fact is, I may say, stereotyped in the Record Books of this Office of the Superintendent that each and every Superior of Mr. Logan McKnight, have from time to time, and whenever found necessary, appointed the Acting Superintendent without the advice, consent or approval of the Director of the U.S. Mint. Mr. Knight so exercised was never before questioned by any of the Officers of this Branch Mint; they have, on the contrary tacitly acknowledged it, in consenting, when ever so appointed, to officiate as Acting Superintendent, and there is no instance on record showing that they ever took the trouble to enquire officially about the right of the Superintendent to appoint them or of their power to serve. I only know of a single exception to this general rule, it occurred in 1854.

One of the most important functions of the Superintendent of this Branch Mint and a guard over the public moneys, is the duty he is called to perform under the 12th Section of "An Act to provide for the better organization of the Treasury &c" approved August 6, 1846, ~~and~~ as a check upon the Assistant Treasurer, in examining the books, accounts, returns and money on hand of that Depositary.

It appears from the records of my Office as "Assistant Treasurer" that During the term of service of my immediate predecessor, the Acting Superintendent, for the time being has, on various occasions (except once) performed the duty assigned to the Superintendent of this Branch Mint, under the act of 1846, without previous or subsequent confirmation by the Director

of the Mint, of his appointment by the Superintendent.

Three cases have occurred, as shown by the Duplicate ~~Reports~~ Signed Reports of the fiscal condition of that Depository and therein filed, as follows:

Report from the 7th to 30th July 1853, signed by the Melter and Refiner as Acting Superintendent;

Report for the months of September 1853, signed by the Assayer, as Acting Superintendent, and

Report for the months of May and June 1856 and of the months of January, May and October 1857 signed by the Melter and Refiner as Acting Superintendent.

And, here, let me be permitted to say that the casuality of a short or of a long absence of the Superintendent either from the City or from the State (and both cases have occurred) is of very small importance; inasmuch as what is not specially authorized for any determined period of time, or for any particular place, matters it immaterial whether the absence is for days, weeks, or months, or from the City or State.

The opinion of the U. S. District Attorney, upon which you have called my attention, if correct, seems to justify this proposition; the law quoted by him alludes to neither general or exceptional cases. He says: "The 11th Section of the Mint act approved 18 January 1857 authorizes the Superintendent in case of ~~absence~~ temporary absence to Designate to the Director of the Mint some person to fill his place during his absence, but such Designation is not binding on the Government nor is the person so Designated actually appointed until the Director of the Mint approves the selection made by the Superintendent."

If, I repeat it, the opinion of the U. S. District Attorney is correct, all the acts performed by the several Acting Superintendents whose appointments were never made with the consent or knowledge of the Director of the Mint, are contrary to law, therefore null and void. If on the contrary, the U. S. District Attorney is mistaken, your appointment, as a person attached to the Mint, is perhaps as legal and binding as

that of any other Acting Superintendent appointed by the predecessors of Mr McKnight under similar circumstances. In either cases, I do not understand ~~not~~ what is to be gained by the present controversy.

Very respectfully

Your obt. Servant

A. J. Guiros

Treasurer

John H. Alpuente Esq

Acting Superintendent

N. O. Branch Mint

A. J. Guerot Esq
Treas. Br. Mint
New Orleans
May 11th 1837.

To

Supt. Clerk

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, May 11th 1858.

Sir,

Yesterday in the press of business I wrote you that I transmitted my oath of office as Supdt. Clerk and it seems that I forgot to enclose it. Herewith please find it.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Wm H Alpuente
acting Supdt.

Col. James Ross Snowden
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia
Pa.

From
Supt Clerk
Br Mint
New Orleans

Enclosing Copy
of oath of
Office

May 19, 1888.

United States of America

State of Louisiana
City of New Orleans.

Fourth District Court of New Orleans

I, John H. Alpuente do solemnly swear that I will faithfully & impartially discharge & perform all the duties incumbent on me as Superintendant's Clerk Branch Mint United States at New Orleans according to the best of my abilities & understanding agreeably to the Constitution and laws of the United States. So help me God

(Signed) John H. Alpuente

Sworn to and Subs^d before
me this 8th May 1858

(Signed) John W. Price
Judge 4th D. C.
of New Orleans

May 8th 1858
A true Copy

H. L. Mnotagh
Sg Clerk

New Orleans May 11. 1858

John H. Alfuente Esq.re

Dear Sir,

In answer to your inquiry of yesterday to date I will say, that during my Superintendency of the U. S. Branch Mint in this City, I visited the North, two or three times on Official business. On those occasions, I appointed some one attached to the Establishment to act as Superintendent during my absence, entering said appointment upon the Order or Requisition Book, for the information of the Officers, and notifying the Director in Philadelphia of the fact. These appointments were not attended by any interruption of our operations -

Very respectfully
Your S
J. M. Kennedy

At your verbal request I will add, that the party representing me, as above, entered at once upon the discharge of his duties, without waiting for the confirmation of his appointment by the Director.

J. M. K.

John M. Kennedy Esq
formerly Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
to
John H. Alexander
dated May 11. 1838.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, May 13th 1858.

Sir,

An unpleasant controversy has taken place between three of the officers of this Branch Mint & myself as acting Superintendent. I think it my duty to lay the whole matter before you, the proper authority to decide.

These officers, you will perceive by the enclosed correspondence, express a doubt as to the validity of my appointment denying the right of Mr. Mc Knight to appoint to replace himself an acting Supt.

The course pursued by the Supt. Mr. Mc. Knight is the one followed by all the Supts. from the establishment of the Branch Mint, a course acquiesced in by all the officers of the Mint & among those, by two of the same officers who now raise the objection.

I beg leave respectfully to call your attention

to the two herein enclosed letters, one from J. M. Kennedy Esq.r now U. S. Marshale, who has been for many years (above 20 years) Superintendent of this Branch Mint, - the other letter from A. L. Pairot Esq.re Treasurer Branch Mint & Ass.t Treasurer U. S., also formerly Coiner. By that correspondence you will see, that whether right or wrong the course pursued by Mr. McKnight has heretofore been the one always followed & acquiesced in.

The reason why the confirmation of my appointment of acting Supt.t was not waited for before entering on the discharge of those duties, is this: Mr. McKnight left this City on the 8th suddenly being unwell, by a letter of that ~~date~~ date he advised you, for confirmation, the fact of my appointment. In the meantime following the custom always followed ~~—~~ here, I took charge of the Superintendency, advising you by mail of the fact. - When this con-

- (troversy

-troversy began, I telegraphed you of my ap-
-pointment, requesting you at the same time
to answer me by telegraph if the selection
of Mr. McKnight was approved by
you, I have up to date receive no answer.
-This in my humble opinion was the only
course I had to pursue.

I have no suggestions to make as to the
merit of this controversy. I respectfully sub-
mit the whole matter to you, the proper au-
thority. In the mean time though the o-
perations of this Branch of the Mint have not
suffered & are not likely to suffer by this con-
troversy, I would most respectfully suggest
that the sooner it is terminated by your
decision, the better will it be, for the public
service.

Very Respectfully
Your Obl. Servt.
John H. Alpuente
acting Supdt.

James Ross Snowden Esqr
Director U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

From
John H. Alpuenta
Act Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
May 13. 1858

to

Director of the Mint

Enclosing copy
of correspondence
between himself, the
Operative Officers
of Br Mint N.O. and
U. S. District
Attorney. —

The Magnetic Telegraph Company,

MORSE LINE,

BETWEEN

New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Mobile & New Orleans,

Connecting with the Southern, Western, Eastern and Northern Lines of Morse's Telegraph.

TO THE TELEGRAPHING PUBLIC.

Please write plainly; answer quickly; *pre-pay*; use no figures except dates—they cost more; give name, street, and number of the party addressed, to insure prompt delivery; also, your own address under your signature; no charge for address and signature. The above is for your safety as well as our convenience.

OFFICES IN PHILADELPHIA—302 Chesnut Street, above Third, and Girard House.

Offices in NEW YORK.....43 Wall Street, Right Hand Entrance to American Museum, Astor House, and Entrance to Burton's Theatre.
" WILMINGTON.....Telegraph Building, N. E. Corner of Third and Market Sts.
" BALTIMORE.....Sun Iron Building, Corner of Baltimore and South Streets.
" WASHINGTON.....National Hotel, Pennsylvania Avenue, Corner of Sixth St., U. S. Capitol, rear Reporters' Seats, and Pennsylvania Avenue, opposite the Treasury Building.
" NEW ORLEANS.....Under St. Charles Hotel.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Dated New Orleans Jan 16 1858

Rec'd, Philadelphia, 16 1858 8 o'clock 45 min. P. M.

To Jas. Ross Snowden.

Director of U. S Mint

The undersigned officers of the Branch Mint request you to withhold the approval of J. H. Alexander as acting Superintendent until our letters mailed today can reach you—.

M. F. Bonzano
Metter & Reisman
Howard Millspaugh
assayer B. F. Taylor
Comer

37/608
N.S.

NATIONAL TELEGRAPH

LINES TO

PITTSBURG, CINCINNATI, LOUISVILLE, ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS,

AND ALL INTERMEDIATE PLACES,

Office, No. 311 Chestnut Street, Second Story, Rear Room,

PHILADELPHIA.

8

Dated at N Orleans May 10th 1858

To J R Snowden

Director of Mint

Mr McKnight left on the 8th suddenly for the north being unwell. He has appointed me acting superintendent Branch Mint during his absence and advised you officially of the fact by mail He will be in Phila on the 20th inst Please telegraph me if you approve of the nomination

John H Alpuente
Supt Clerk

50/ 185[illegible]

I/D

From
Comer
M & R
Assayer &
Supt. Clark
Pr. Mint
New Orleans.

In relation to act
Supt. —

May 11, 1888.

Mint of U. S.

Sir,

The enclosed requisition from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, for $7,058.53, is transmitted for your consideration.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your faithful servant,
E. R. Snowden,
Director of the Mint.

Hon Howell Cobb,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City

140
30
20
190

140
30
10
180
120
300

187.50

A R Linderman

To Sec Treasury

Transmitting Requisition
from Supt Br Mint
New Orleans.

May 13. 1838

(Private.)

Branch Mint N.O.
May 14th 1858.

Sir

You are doubtless in possession of some of the facts in regard to the extraordinary occurrences which have transpired, in the past few days, in the matter of the clandestine possession of this Branch Mint; in view of which, I hope you will excuse the liberty of addressing you a private letter upon the subject.

The history of this matter at initiation is, that N. L. Guirot Esq.r the Treasurer, has been working unceasingly to get his Step-son in the establishment; to procure for him for a residence, the Superintendent's quarters, and to make him deputy Sup: and finally Sup: in fact. Mr Guirot had, in his pocket, authority from Washington to offer Mr McKnight the Superintendency, and it was understood between them before his acceptance, that he (Mr K.) was going to Europe early in the Spring, and that Mr G. was to occupy the Superintendent's residence, he having informed Mr McK, that he could not rent it out to any outsider, which he desired to do.

The first move made by the Treasurer was to take the Messenger as porter in the Sub-Treasury office, which left the position vacant and remained so for more than two months until his Step-son could return from Baton Rouge, where he was employed in the Legislature as translating clerk. During these two months Mr Guirot constantly urged the necessity

of there being a Messenger, and that Mr McKnight, visiting the mint for an hour every two days, ought to have some one to open his letters, and attend to his business, as he might be assigned. Thus arose the idea of the combination of Messenger and Deputy Superintendent.

A new doorkeeper was then taken, who was charged with the duties of Messenger, and who still performs the services to the present time, notwithstanding the Supt. orders to his clerk to perform the duties of Messenger. It is notorious that he never performed these duties, except showing the Mint to such visitors as were his friends.

Shortly before these changes took place, Mr McKnight conceived the idea of giving the Superintendent's residence to his Messenger, — Mr McK. having refused to give it to Mr. G. as originally agreed — the impropriety of which, was very reluctantly and delicately hinted to him by some of the Officers. He seemed to hesitate until your pamphlet of general instructions upon Mint business was received, when the word "Superintendent's clerk" in 13 Sect (page 9) was seized upon as a convenient escape from his dilemma. Mr Snow then asked for an additional clerk, which, I believe, was granted.

The Treasurer's clerks have always made all of the calculations in regard to deposits, and have performed every duty, and made out every paper for the Superintendent, that was required; and still performs that duty to the present time, a fact which, in all probability, was not explained to you when this additional clerk was asked for.

When we first objected to Mr McK's proposed distribution, as being very inconvenient, of the apartments, he stated that he had promised to Mr Alpaente the residence, and he must find room for him.

The fact is plain to us all that the office was created solely for the benefit of Mr Alpaente, and consequently at the expense of the Government.

We disdain any intention whatever to pry of the official acts of a superior officer, but when such palpably clandestine efforts are made to thrust a person, totally unacquainted with Mint business, upon us, we cannot refrain from bringing it to your notice.

I have the honor to be,
Respectfully Your,
Obt Servant,
B. F. Taylor
Cash.

James Ross Snowden Esqr,
Director of Mint
Philadelphia,
Pa.

B. F. Taylor Comer
Pr Mint New Orleans
May 14. 1868.

In relation to appointment
of Mr Alpuente as
Messenger &c

J

May 18, 8.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of 9th inst. I have to state that the 4 carboys of chemically pure nitric acid you refer to were shipped by the "Lane & Walsh," together with 66 carboys parting acid.

I am, very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Logan McKnight Esq.
Supt Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

To
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

May 1858

Name vessel
by which 4 casks
chemically pure
nitric acid was
shipped

May 1st 1858.

May 19. 8.

Sir,

I send you to day per Adams Express Co. a box containing 6 Half Dollar head and 12 Reverse dies agreeably to your requisition of 29th ult.

I am, very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Logan McKnight Esq.
Supt Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Mint of the United States, Engraver's Dept.

Philad.a May 19. 1858.

Working dies, furnished for the Branch Mint at New Orleans: agreeably to the requisition of the superintendent of April 29. 1858, completing the order —

One box containing as follows:

	H.	R.	Total
Half Dollar	6	12	18

in cases as pairs, marked, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56

in do. Reverses " 57, 58, 59

James B. Longacre

Engraver

Mint of the United States,

Philadelphia, May 19. 1858.

Sir,

I send you to-day per Adams Express Co. a box containing the following dies viz: Half Dollar-6 Head and 12 Reverse; agreably to your requisition of 29th ult.

To
Supt R Mint
New Orleans

Transmitting Dies
6 Head & 12
Reverse H. Dollar

May 19. 1881.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia May 21. 1838.

Sir

A difficulty has arisen at the branch Mint at New Orleans respecting the appointment by the Superintendent of a person to act during the temporary absence which the Department has granted him.

I herewith enclose all the papers respecting this unpleasant controversy; and, I submit them to your consideration, as the question is one which is purely referable to the Department.

It has been usual at New Orleans for the Superintendent in asking leave of absence to state who would act for him; the application is then submitted to the Department, and when leave is granted the Director informs the Superintendent of that fact but there has not been heretofore any formal approval of the person designated by the Superintendent to act for him

The main object of the 4th section of the general Mint Law (act of 18th January 1837) seems to be to permit the Director at the principal Mint to appoint acting subordinate Officers with the consent of such Officers — the Treasurer, Assayer, Melter & Refiner and Coiner for example.

At the branch Mint I am of opinion that the same authority is given to the superintendent as to his subordinate Officers; and it is also a convenient construction of that section to permit the appointment of an acting superintendent.

This however may be regarded as a preliminary question, and if decided by Gen. in the affirmative, then two points arise. 1. How that appointment should be made, and 2. has the superintendent in this case appointed a suitable person?

I think it is proper that the appointment of an acting superintendent should be subject to the approval of the Department, or the Department may devolve that duty upon the Director of the Mint.

In this case the superintendent Mr McKnight, seems to have made two deputations,

one to his "Messenger", the other to the Melter & Refiner. I say Messenger although Mr. L. H. Alpuente is called by the Supt. "Superintendents Clerk"; but no such Clerkship has yet been authorized at New Orleans. Mr. McKnight supposed that because, in the printed copy of my general instructions for all the Mints, I spoke of a "Superintendents Clerk" that therefore he was entitled to appoint one. But I only meant to apply the term to such of the Mints, and to the Assay Office, where a superintendents Clerk had been authorized. I think that a superintendents Clerk at New Orleans would be useful but as the number of Clerks at that institution is fixed by law an additional one cannot be appointed unless authorized in the same manner. I suggested however in a former communication (26th ult.) that the pudrim of this employé might with propriety be increased, because the superintendent wished the young man to perform other duties and would dispense with the services of a Messenger.

I make this explanation to show that although called a Clerk, the young man was the Messenger of the Superintendent when

he was designated as acting superintendent.

The other person designated by the superintendent is Dr. M. V. Bonzano, the Melter & Refiner of the branch Mint. This officer has usually acted as temporary superintendent and Mr. McKnight in his letter of the 5th ult. asking leave of absence says "Dr. M. V. Bonzano has usually acted as superintendent for my predecessors, and will, with my block, see that the public interests suffers no detriment."

I inferred from this communication that he intended to appoint Dr. Bonzano.

As the question has been thus particularly brought to my attention as to the most suitable person to be appointed as acting superintendent I think it proper to say that there are good reasons why no accounting officer of the Mint should be appointed acting superintendent. The chief reason which I may mention is that he would be issuing warrants to himself. The Assayer is not in this category, and is therefore among the officers the most appropriately fitted

to receive the appointment.

I submit the whole case to your consideration and decision.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your faithful servant
James Ross Snowden,
Director of the Mint.

Hon Howell Cobb,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

P.S.

I make the following suggestion for your consideration. I have some expectation that Mr. McKnight will call at the Mint in a few days. If you approve of it I will request him to designate the assayer as the Acting Superintendent. If he should call at the Department, which is probable, the same solution of the difficulty could be made if you think proper.

J. R. S.

To,
The Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

May 21. 1858

In relation to the
controversy at the
Br. Mint New Orleans
respecting appointment
of Lt. Alpuente ~~Ex~~
as act Supt.

all the papers in
relation to above
subject enclosed

Treasury Department
May 22d 1858

Sir

Agreeably to your request I herewith return the papers enclosed with your letter of the 21st inst. You will also find herewith a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Hon John Slidell on the 15th inst, taking the same view of the appointment of J. H. Alfuente, as stated in your letter.

Logan McKnight Esq has tendered his resignation of the office of Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans — which has not yet been formally accepted, and will not be until his successor shall be selected.

In the mean time it seems to devolve on the Director of the Mint subject to the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, to appoint some suitable person to act as Superintendent during the absence of that officer.

It will probably be best for you to advise Mr Alfuente, that his designation as acting Superintendent by Mr McKnight was a void act, he having no authority to make such an appointment. Should

you

you deem the assayer to be a suitable person to act as Superintendent until the office is filled according to law, you can appoint him, agreeably to your suggestion of the objection to Dr Bolzano.

In order that the personal difficulties which appear to have unfortunately arisen at that branch may not be aggravated or increased, it will be well to direct the Acting Superintendent to confine his official acts as such, to the routine and necessary duties of the office — and should any thing arise out of the ordinary course, to apply at once to you for special instructions.

Perhaps under the peculiar state of things at the Branch Mint, it will be expedient for you to apprize Mr Alpuente, and the Acting Superintendent of their respective positions by telegraph — informing the latter that his appointment and instructions will be sent by mail.

Very respectfully
Your obed Servt

James Ross Snowden by
Director of the Mint
Phila

Howell Cobb
Secretary of the Treasury

From The Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

Controversy at Dr
Mint New Orleans
respecting appointment
of J. H. Alpuente
as act Supt. —
Resignation of
Logan McKnight

My suggestion as
to appointment of
assayer to act as
Supt. concurred
in —
copy of letter to Hon J
Eldon enclosed
May 24, 1838

Copy

Treasury Department

May 15. 1858

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your reference of Mr Mc Knights letter of the 4th inst and beg leave to state that all the clerkships authorized by law at the Branch Mint at New Orleans being already filled, no authority can be found for the appointment of another clerk, or for the lawful payment of such clerk. The 2d Section of the act of 3d March 1835 creating that Branch Mint, authorizes payment "to such subordinate officers and servants, "not exceeding twenty in number, such "wages and allowances as are customary "and reasonable according to their "respective stations & occupations"

This language clearly does not authorize the appointment of any clerk or the payment of a clerk out of the appropriation for the payment of workmen.

Allow me to add that the regulations of the Director referred to by Mr McKnight could not create a clerkship not authorized by law. They refer to an existing clerk for the performance of certain duties.

I must therefore repeat the suggestion contained in my letter of the 8th inst. that I have no power to sanction the appointment of the clerk he asks.

Very Respy
Your obt servt
Stowell Cobb
Secy of Treasury

Hon John Sliddell
Senate U.S.

Copy of letter
of Secretary of Treasury
to
Hon John Slidell
as to additional Clerk
at Branch at New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS - 1859

January 6. 1

Sir

I transmit herewith a statement of the expenditures of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, during the fourth quarter 1838.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect.
Your faithful servant,
Robt. Patterson.
Director of the Mint.

Hon Howell Cobb.
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

To.
Sec. Treasury
Washington City.

Transmitting Dr Statement
Expenditures PR
Mint New Orleans
4th Qr 1838.

Jan 15. 1839.

Jan. 14. 9.

My Dear Sir,

The missing letter, which you wrote to me on the 31st. ult.o, reached me to-day. I enclose the envelope by which you will see the cause of the delay, namely, it was misdirected to New Orleans.

Our subsequent correspondence has rendered it unnecessary for me to reply to the principal part of your letter, — that which relates to the unpleasant question which has arisen at the branch mint at N. Orleans. But I may now state that if I could afford it, I would visit the branch mint the last of next month, and decide the question on a personal view of the premises. But as is the case with the Supt. my salary is ~~not~~ scarcely adequate to an economical residence without making a protracted journey abroad; at home. Whilst every thing in the way of expenses of living have advanced within the last 15 years, 100 per cent. the Director's salary has remained the same as fixed by the act of Jan. 18, 1837.

I hope however to be able to settle the difficulty satisfactorily when I receive the responses to my recent letter.

Mr. Elmore has asked me for copies of my last annual report. As my report is not now printed in a separate form, but goes with the financial report of the Secretary of the Treasury, and I receive but a few copies of that report. I would be much obliged if you could conveniently send the Supt. a few copies of the Secretary's recent report.

I send you two or three copies of the Regulations relative to the transaction of business at the Mint and its branches; and of a pamphlet I have prepared respecting the annual assay.

I have now in the hands of the Printer material for a pamphlet containing the Laws relating to the Mint. (the former pamphlet is exhausted). When it is printed I will send you one or more copies.

I am, with great respect,
Very truly yours,
James Rose Underdrum,

Hon. John Slidell,
U. S. Senator,
Washington City.

My dear Sir.

W. Elmore Superintendent of the U.S. Branch Mint at New Orleans has sent me a copy of a letter which he has addressed to you on the subject of his residence at the Mint. I have read it carefully & from my knowledge of the history of the Branch Mint & its operations since its establishment consider him entitled to the privileges which he claims. When the building was not sufficiently extensive for the necessary business purposes of the residence of the officers who have hereto fore enjoyed that privilege, it would seem

time that the only question could be, which of the subordinate officers should be deprived of the rooms they occupied before Mr. Knight's incumbency? The salary of the Superintendent was fixed with reference to the advantages of a residence in the Mint & should he be deprived of it, it will be necessary in order to secure the services of a person qualified to discharge its various duties, to make a corresponding increase of salary. I regret very much the existence of any difference of opinion among the officers of the Branch Mint at Dahlonega respecting the appropriation of apartments. But as Mr. Elmore has requested me to give my opinion on the

subject. I do not feel at liberty to withhold it.

Very Respty.
Your Obedt
John Slidell.
Washington
31 Decr. 1858

James Ross Snowden Esqr.
Director of Mint
Philada.

Your annual report of Secretary of Treasury has not yet been printed should you have a printed copy you will oblige me by sending one. as also two or three copies of the Mint laws & regulations asked for by constituents.

Transfer to
Hon John Slidell
U. S. Senator
Washington

In relation to
Arrangement of
rooms at the
Branch Mint
New Orleans

Jan 14, 1857

Jan. 12. 1855

Dear Sir

In ack.g the receipt of your form of the 9th inst (to which I have given a careful consideration) I have to state that I found it necessary to ask for further information from Mr. O. before giving my opinion ~~in~~ ~~[illegible]~~ upon ~~to~~ the implements question which has arisen in the branch mint. I concur however with you in the opinion that the Supt. has strong claims for a sentence in the mint; and I hope to be able to arrange the matter to his satisfaction, keeping in view however the paramount principle that the personal convenience of the officers must be subordinate to the requirements of the further service.

Hon John Slidell
U.S. Senator

My sub. Ob. Sevt.
J. R. O.

Dear Sir

I have yours of 7 inst. You are right in supposing that a portion of my first letter referred to the Branch Mint at New Orleans. The Superintendent sent me a copy of a letter which he had written to you on the subject of the distribution of apartments in the Mint & his claim to occupy them. Hereto for allotted to that officer. He also requested me to give my opinion as he appeared to my personal observation my knowledge of the past history of the Branch Mint. I did not feel at liberty to withhold it. although I should much have preferred that it had not been called for.

I concur in the views expressed by the Superintendent. I think that there is ample space for the convenient transaction of the business

of the Mint & for the residence of the officers to whom rooms were allotted before the late repairs were made. but if this were not the case, the Superintendent is the last officer to whom a residence in the building should be refused.

His salary was fixed with reference to that privilege & without it would be entirely out of proportion to the importance & responsibility of the office. I do not think that Mr. Elmore would have accepted it, had he not supposed that he was to have the privilege enjoyed by his predecessors.

Very Resp.
Your Obdt Sr
John Slidell
Washington
9 Jany 1859

James Ross Snowden Esqr
Director of Mint

Forwd To
Hon John Slidell
U.S. Senator
Washington

Respecting arrange-
ment of rooms at
Br Mint ~~San~~
~~Francisco~~, New
Orleans —

Jan 12, 1859.

Jan. 12. 9.

Sir,

I have carefully considered the subject presented in your Communication of the 20th ult.

It seems proper I should make a preliminary communication to you, with some suggestions and inquiries, before expressing my opinion upon the point in question. And first, I may remark that the personal convenience of the Officers at the the Mints must be subservient to the public interests. At some period, perhaps not far distant, it may become necessary to use for public purposes some, if not all, of the rooms now occupied as residences by Officers of the Mint. But until that necessity arises, and whilst some of the rooms are used as residences I think the claims of the Superintendent are paramount to that of any of the other Officers, and he should be accommodated with rooms for a residence if it can be done

without detriment to the public service.
If other arrangements had not been made when one branch of this Quarter was before us during the time of your predecessor, Mr. McKnight, I would be inclined to say that the Supt. should occupy the rooms which were heretofore appropriated to him. But the transfer of the Assayer to rooms nos. 13. & 14. (formerly occupied by Supt.) seems to have been an advantageous one.

How far it would be practicable and advantageous for the Supt. to occupy the rooms appropriated to the Coiner, or to the Melter and Refiner I am, without further information, unable to determine. On two points I am now prepared to express my opinion, namely 1. The public interests must be paramount to the personal Convenience of the Officers. 2. The Superintendent ought to be provided with suitable rooms in the mint if any officer is

provided with them, if it can be done without detriment to the public service.

It has occurred to me that in this expression of opinion you and the other officers concerned may be able amicably to make a satisfactory arrangement. I earnestly hope that you will do so. If this can be done you will please communi[illegible] proposed arrangement to me. If no such adjustment can be made, then I am to request by a further comm[illegible] from you on the subject; and you will please request the other officers concerned to present their views upon it, and enclose them to me with your communication.

I am, very respectfully
your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director of the Mint.

William A. Elmore Esq.
Superintendent
Branch Mint,
New Orleans, La.

To
Supt U.S. Mint
New Orleans
La

January 1859

In relation to
arrangement
of rooms at
Mint U.S. Mint

Jan 12, 1859.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans. Jan'y 7th 1859

Sir

Please find herewith statement of the condition of this Branch for the week ending 1st Inst - statement of Deposit Coinage and Coin received for assay during the months of December 1858, abstracts of Profit & Loss, Bullion Deposit Profit & Loss, silver Purchase Profit & Loss, and statement of Coin received for assay during the year 1858, and a statement of Expenditures for the Fourth Quarter of 1858, together with the Melter Refiner and Coiners Bullion accounts for the year 1858. I also send by 6 days mail, one box containing assay Coins for December.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Jas Ross Snowden Esqr
Director Mint
Philadelphia

From Lt
Supt & Asst
New Orleans
La

Assay Com's Reports
December 4th
& 1838.—

Jan 15, 1839.—

Jan 15, 9.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst with the enclosures stated; also, a package containing the assay coins of your branch Mint reserved from the coinage of the Month of December last.

Very Respectfully,
James Pope Snowden,
Director of the Mint.

William A. Elmore Esq,
Supt Br. Mint.
New Orleans,
La.

P.S. In response to your request to send you copies of my report I have to state that the Mint report is now printed with the Report of the Sec. of the Treasury on the Finances I have suggested to Mr Slidell to send you some copies. S. R. S.

APRIL — 30, 1859

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF April 1857

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting. Ounces.	Dec.	Standard Weight. Ounces.	Dec.	Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Value after Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold										
Mexican Bullion	18283	91	444617		8271	94	8220	66		
Unknown Do	79	21	11488		213	74	211	14		
U. S. Bullion, Calc.	327	21	321813		5987	21	5940	70		
									14472	89
Silver										
French Coins &c.	126	45	12630		146	97	146	97		
Mexican Coins &c.	1201	30	1197	48	1393	43	1393	43		
Spanish Coins &c. *	1973	70	1963	41	2284	69	2284	69		
Mexican Bullion	68395	26	73647	25	85698	61	85127	05		
Unknown Bullion	813	26	746	31	868	44	868	44		
U. S. Coins	3805	05	3789	12	4409	16	4409	16		
U. S. Bullion, Calc.	327	21	34	53	40	18	40	18		
									94841	48
									109314	37

* $1980.- in charge

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold					
None Delivered					
Silver					
Half Dollars	170.000	85.000	-		
Quarter Dollars	140.000	35.000	-		
				120000	00
				120000	00

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office April 30. 1857.

[signature]
Treasurer

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia May 3. 1859.

Sir.

I forward to your address to-day per Adams Express Co. a box containing 10 half-dollar and six half-dime (obverse) dies, in cases marked 30 to 37 inclusive.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden.
Director of the Mint.

Wm A. Elmore Esq.
Supt Br. Mint,
New Orleans,
La.

Tiffm A. Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Dies forwarded

May 3. 1859

Mint of the United States.
Philad^a May 3. 1859.

Sir,

I have received a communication from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, (dated 26th ult^o) stating that the sum of $6000, was paid by the Department to the Adams Express Co., on the 4th January 1854, for the transportation of a $1,000,000 silver bullion, from New Orleans to Phil^a, and $200,000 in coin to St. Louis, and the further sum of $5000 on the 19th June 1857, for the transportation of a $1,000,000 silver bullion from New Orleans to Philadelphia, amounting together to the sum of $11,000 and that these amounts were charged to the appropriation for the Incidental & Contingent Expenses of that institution

These payments should have been made out of the profits on silver coinage and as the branch Mint will be much embarrassed unless the amount thereof is made available for its support, I respectfully suggest that the Superintendent be authorized to transfer the sum of Eleven thousand dollars.

from Seen Profit & Loss to the Ordinary account.
If this proposition meet your approval I will give the Superintendent the necessary instructions to carry the same into effect.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden.
Director of the Mint.

Hon Howell Cobb,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia May 3. 1859.

Sir,

I forward to your address to-day per Adams Express Co. a box containing the following dies, viz:

10 Half Dollar (obverse)
6 Half Dime "

To
The Sec Treasury

Payment of $11,000
to A. Adams Express Co.
for freight on silver
bullion ~~paid~~ out of
appropriation Br
Mint New Orleans -
suggest that the
Amt. be restored
to that Br Mint by
a transfer from Silver
Profit & Loss to
Ordinary

May 3. 1859

Treasury Department
May 3 1859

Sir,

I transmit, herewith, a communication of the 25th ultimo, and its enclosures, from the Supt. of the Branch Mint at New Orleans respecting a deficiency of $11000~ in the Contingent fund of that branch, produced by payments for transportation of silver bullion to the Mint at Philadelphia and the branch at St. Louis.—

Your report on the subject involved, is requested, with the return of the enclosed papers.—

I am, very respectfully
P. Clayton
Actg. Secretary of the Treasury

J. Ross Snowden, Esq
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

From & To
Hon P. Clayton
Act. Sec Treasury
Washington City

Encloses letter from
Supt Br Mint N. O.
respecting a deficiency
in the ordinary a/c
at that Br caused
by payment of freight
on Bullion. —
Return the papers
& state that my letter
of yesterday meets
the question

May 4, 1859

May 4th. 59.

Sir,

My communication of yesterday, respecting the payment of the transfer of silver bullion and coin from the branch mint at New Orleans, seems to render it unnecessary to reply to your favor of the same date on that subject.

As requested I return the papers which you sent to me.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden.
Director of the mint.

Hon. P. Clayton
Acting Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City.

Treasury Department
May 5th 1859

Sir

I am in the receipt of yours of the 3rd & 4th inst. in relation to the payment to Adams & Co. Express of $11.000 for the transportation of Silver from the Branch Mint at N. Orleans to Philadelphia & St Louis.

I enclose, again, the letter of the Treasurer to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans and beg to submit for your consideration whether as the Mint at Philadelphia realises the profits on the coinage of the Bullion the expense of transportation should not, as suggested by the Treasurer be paid by the Mint, leaving the expense of the transportation of Silver Coins to be paid out of the profits on Silver Coinage at the Branch at N. Orleans.

I am very Resp
R Clayton
acty Sec of the Treasury.

Jas. Ross Snowden Esq
Director of the Mint
Philada

From & To
Act Sec Treasury

Restoration to Br Mint New Orleans of
$11000 paid Adams
Express Co. for transpor
tation of Silver
from New Orleans
to Phil.a

May 7, 1839

May 7th 9.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your favor of the 5th inst, I have to state that I suggested that the payment for transportation of silver should be made at New Orleans, because it would be more convenient to make the transfer, there at this Institution. At the Bank at N.O. there is a balance of upwards of $62,000 standing to the credit of the Silver Profit and Loss account. But I have no objections that the amount may be restored to the ordinary fund at N.O. by making the payment from the Silver Profit & Loss acct. at this Mint. It is of course the same to the government whether paid here or at N.O., for, in either case it merely reduces the balance which is payable

into the Treasury of the United States.

As a mode of restoring the am.t to the branch mint I propose that the amount paid for the transportation of the Silver from N.O. to Phil.a be paid to the Ag.t Treas. U.S. here to the credit of the Treasurer of the U. States. upon a receipt of the Certificate of deposit you can cause the proper entries to be made upon the books of the Department, by which the appropriations may be restored to the branch mint.

The cost of transportation of the Co from N.O. to St. Louis may be paid at New Orleans from the silver profit and loss account.

Please inform me the different items of the Adams Express Company charges; and state whether this arrangement is approved by the Department.

Hereafter I would suggest that all bills for the transportation

of these batches or coins from any of the mints be referred to this office for adjustment.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,

James Ross Snowden.
Director of the Mint.

Hon. P. Clayton
Acting Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Treasury Department
10th May 1859.

Sir,

I am making up a comparative statement of the expenditures of the Government from the year 1852 to 1858, and in those cases, where the expenditures have been considerably increased I desire to be informed of the cause of such increase.

It appears that in 1852 that the amount expended under the annual appropriation for the incidental & contingent expenses including fuel materials, repairs &c for the US Mint was $ 700.—

& for wages of workmen 47.000.—

In 1858 the expenditure for incidental & contingent expenses was $ 75.000.—

& for wages of workmen 74.800.—

I would also remark that the expenditures for the Branch Mint at New Orleans, under the above heads of appropriation were in 1858 below those of 1852.

Please inform me of the cause of the increased expenditure of the Mint, & if in your power, I should like you to state the cause of the decreased expenditure of the Branch at New Orleans.

Respectfully,
yr. obt. servt.
Howell Cobb
Secretary of the Treasury.

J. Ross Snowden Esq
Director of US Mint
Philad.a Pa

From So
The Secretary Treasury

Difference between
amt appropriations
for the Mint in 1852
& 1853. — V

May 13, 1854

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia May 13, 1859.

Sir,

I have received your favor of the 10th inst.

The expenditures of the Mint during the year ending June 30, 1852 for the items you mention, namely, for wages of workmen; and for incidental expenses, amounted to the sum of $250,407.53.

The means of the Mint for the same period besides the amount appropriated by Congress were as follows:

Deductions from deposits	$111,000.00
Profits on 3 cent coinage	41,827.32
Profits on Copper Coinage	16,961.38
Sweeps from deposit Melting room	38,228.87
Total	$208,017.57

The Director of the Mint in presenting the estimates for that year says, "It will be seen that the appropriations asked for this Mint is, considering the magnitude of our deposits, comparatively small. Our actual expenses are of course greatly increased but as they principally arise from the extensive refining operations required to prepare our deposits of California gold into bullion fit for coinage, we are enabled to meet them from the deductions we are by law authorized to make from those deposits to defray the cost necessary for

that sheet."

Besides the large amount of deductions from deposites to which the Director refers it will be seen, by the statement which I present, that the other items, namely, the profits on the 3 cent coinage, the copper coinage, and the proceeds of sweeps amounting to $97.107.57, were also available for the expenses of the Mint.

The profits on the 3 cent coinage ceased under the act of March 3d 1853. The same act requires "the profits of the Mint to be paid annually into the Treasury of the United States." Hence they are no longer available for Mint expenses.

I might mention that in 1852 the Mint did not pay depositors the silver contained in their deposits of gold unless it exceeded five dollars, but since that time they are paid for the silver if it is of the value of one dollar. Besides, the refining was not done as closely then as now. And when it is performed in one establishment it costs less than when it is divided. Since 1854 the refining of gold is performed largely at San Francisco and at New York. The deductions from deposites at the principal Mint in 1858 for refining and from all other sources available for Mint expenses, amounts to only to the sum of $3.005.05.

The actual expenses however at the Mint in the two years to which I call your attention were as follows. In 1852 the expenditures for wages and incidentals amounted to — — —

explanations that the expenses of the Mints cannot be precisely ascertained by reference to the appropriations. As to this Mint I am enabled to show how far the expenses differ from the amounts drawn from the Treasury; but with the branches I have no accessible means of making an exact comparison. But as all the branch Mint accounts are on file at the Comptrollers office in Washington exact statements on these points can doubtless be obtained from that office.

I have the honor to be
With great respect,
Your faithful servant,

Director of the Mint.

Hon. Howell Cobb
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

Treasury Department
May 10th 1859.

Sir

I am in the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant. Adams & Co's Bill was for transportation of $2,000,000 of bullion from N. Orleans to Philadelphia $10,000.00 For transportation of $200,000 Silver coins from N. Orleans to St. Louis $1000.00.

As soon as the Deposit of $10,000 shall be made with the Ass. Treasurer at Philadelphia a remittance can be made by the Department for that sum on account of the Incidental contingencies of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans. You will be pleased to give the necessary instructions for the transfer at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans, of $1000 from the Silver profit Loss a/c to the ordinary expense account of that Branch.

I am very Resp.
Howell Cobb
Sec of the Treasury

J. Ross Snowden Esq
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

From & To
The Sec Treasury

Payment of $10,000
on the Treasury of
the U. S. A/c
Ordinary Trust
By Mint New
Orleans. —

May 12 1859

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, May 10. 1859.

Sir,

Pursuant to your instructions the sum of [illegible] has been paid into the office of the Asst. Treasurer of the U. S. here, to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, on account of [illegible] for the transportation of [illegible] from the [illegible] Mint at New Orleans to Philadelphia.

Endorsed is the receipt of the Asst. Treasurer for the amount.

The superintendent at New Orleans has been instructed to transfer the sum of [illegible] from the [illegible] [illegible] to the Ordinary Expense account of the Institution.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your faithful servant,
[illegible]
Director of the Mint.

Hon. Howell Cobb,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

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PHILADELPHIA OFFICES—No. 302 Chesnut Street, above Third, and Girard House. 96

BY TELEGRAPH.

Dated New Orleans May 11 1859

Rec'd. Phil'd'a, 11 1859, 9 o'clock, 20 min. 3 M.

To Jas Ross Snowden

Director Mint of the U.S

What will be the charges on Silver Bullion deposited to be coined into Silver dollars please answer by telegraph

Wm A Elmore

19/366

40

May 12. 9.

William A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Branch Mint.
New Orleans.

Silver deposited for dollars will be charged for refining and toughening if it requires those operations. In all cases a charge one half per cent for coinage.

Saml. Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Wm T.

Supt U.S. Mint

New Orleans

La

7/25

charge to be

made for coinage

of Silver dollars

May 12, 1879

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, May 12th 1859

Sir

Enclosed please find statement of deposits Coinage, and Coins received for assay during the month of April 1859.

I forward by this days mail one Box of assay coins.

The dies for coinage by you on 3d Inst, have been received, & handed over to the Coiner

Very respectfully

W. L. Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From & To
Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La.

Assay coins
Reports for
April rec. & ack

May 19, 1859

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia May 19. 1859.

Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst with the enclosures stated, also, a package containing the assay coins of your branch Mint for the month of April last.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obt Servt
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Wm A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans
La.

Branch Mint N. Orleans
May 19th 1837

Sir:

No data have been furnished the Coining Department, within my knowledge, by which the height or thickness of a single or a given number of coins, is to be ascertained.

We have a standard of the diameters of the various coins, which may or may not be correct. If a gauge of the thickness of a given number of coins (of the various denominations) has not been established, it is desirable that it should be done.

I beg leave to enquire of the Director, through you, for information upon the subject.

Very Respectfully,
B. F. Taylor,
Coiner.

Wm. A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Branch Mint.
New Orleans.

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, May 21st 1859

Sir

At the request of the Coiner, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 19th Inst, asking information, upon a subject connected with his Department

Very respectfully

Wm. A. Elmore

Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Phila

From to
Supt. Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Thickness of Half
dollars in piles of
20 pieces &c

June 3, 1839

June 3rd 59.

Sir,

As a convenient mode of responding to your letter of the 21st ult. enclosing Dr. Taylors communication, I send you copies of reports made by the Chief Coiner of this mint on the subject in question.

In 1856, when I first considered this subject, the difficulty of prescribing any definite thickness presented itself to me.

Since the receipt of Dr. Taylors communication I have caused an examination to be made of single pieces and piles of twenty pieces of this mint. And whilst it is perhaps ~~[illegible]~~ inexpedient to prescribe a precise thickness for each piece, yet I am of opinion that the piles of twenty pieces ought not to vary much in height, say, not more than the fourth or the thickness of a single piece.

The following is the result of my

investigation of the coins of the mint.

Thickness of 20 pieces, and of single pieces of each denomination of gold and silver coins – in inches.

	Single piece	20 pieces
Double eagle	.095	1.95
Eagle	.085	1.70
Half eagle	.065	1.30
Quarter eagle	.0525	1.05
Three dollar	.0475	.95
Gold dollar	.03	.60
=		
Silver dollar	.1025	2.05
Half dollar	.08125	1.625
Q. dollar	.065	1.30
Dime	.05	1.
Half dime	.035	.70
Three Cent	.0225	.45

I would be glad if the coin of the N.O. would conform as near as may be practicable with the thickness above stated. It might be well to furnish Dr Taylor with a copy of this [illegible]

of Mr Childs' reports, and invite his views upon the subject after he has had time to make some examination of the thickness of the single pieces and piles of 20 pieces coined in your branch.
I can only expect a conformance to the thickness of the coins described in before mentioned in so far as it may be reasonably practicable.

I am, very respectfully
your obt servant,
James Ross Snowden.
Director of the Mint.

William A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Branch Mint
New Orleans.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, May 12th 1859

Sir

Some depositors, have applied to have their silver bullion converted into Dollars; and a question has arisen as to the charge, we should make therefor. I telegraphed you, on yesterday for information, on this point. The following extract from the sixth Section of the act of 1853, I think governs the case "whether the gold & silver deposited be coined or cast into bars or ingots, there shall be, a charge, to the depositor in addition to the charge now made for refining or parting the metals, of one half of one per centum". I await your construction of the law on this point

Very respectfully

Wm. L. Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From T. O.

Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Charge to be imposed
on deposits of silver
for dollars

May 19. 1839

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia May 18, 1857.

Sir.

I have received your letter of the 12th inst.

Your construction of the 6th section of the act of Feb 21, 1853. is correct. Instructions in accordance with the same were sent you by telegraph on the 12th inst. and as a matter of precaution against error in the transmission of the despatch, repeated by letter the next day. To these instructions, I have only to add. That, deposits of Silver bullion for dollars must be entered on a separate abstract and the value calculated the same as under the old system.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint

Wm. A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. U.S. Mint,
New Orleans La.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia May 10. 1857.

Sir,

The sum of $[illegible] has been paid into the Treasury of the United States from our Sum Profit Loss account to enable the Department to restore to your branch Mint the amount paid the Adams Express Co. out of your appropriations for the transportation of $[illegible] silver bullion from New Orleans to Philadelphia.

You will please cause the sum of $[illegible] to be transferred from your Sum Profit Loss account to the ordinary Expense account being amount paid the above Express Co. by the Department for the transportation of $[illegible] in silver coin from New Orleans to Phila.

I may add that I had no knowledge of the above payments out of your appropriations until you called my attention to the subject.

Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Wm. A. Elmore Esq
Supt Pr Mint,
New Orleans
La.

To
Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt R Mint
New Orleans
La

Payment of $10,000
from Profit & Loss (Silver)
at the Mint into the
Treasury U.S. to
credit of Ordinary
Fund R Mint

Instructions to
transfer $1000 from
Silver Profit & Loss to
Ordinary

May 13, 1879

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia May 13. 1839.

Sir,

I received your telegraphic despatch of the 11th inst, in relation to the charges to be imposed on silver deposited for dollars. Late the same evening, and early yesterday morning sent you a reply by telegraph, which I will repeat as a matter of precaution against any error in its transmission. The following is a copy of My reply to your despatch:

"Silver deposited for dollars will be charged for refining and toughening if it requires those operations — In all cases charge one half per cent for coinage."

Very Respectfully,

Director of the Mint

Wm. A. Elmore Esq.
Supt B. Mint,
New Orleans,
La.

The 1/2 pr ct coinage charge is payable into the Treasury of the United States
I. R. S

To
Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Charges to be imposed
on deposits of silver
for dollars

May 13, 1879

Mint

General Ledger

Dr

Profit

1859				Dollars	cts
Sept.	30	To	Balance per acct rend to date	7 562	00
Dec.	31	"	Gold Coinage For amount of Parting charges on Gold Bullion, deposited for Coinage 4th Qr. 1859, paid into the U.S. Treasury to the credit of the Contingent Fund of this Br. Mint.	434	83
	"	"	Silver Coinage For amount of Sundry charges on Sil. Bullion deposited for Coinage, 4th Qr. 1859, paid into the U.S. Treasury, as above $340.85 For amount of Silver parted for the Mint, paid as above $ 4.62	345	47
	"	"	Coiner's a/c of Gold For Wastage allowed him on 22.029.657 ounces of Gold Bullion, used in his Dep^{t} during 1859	100	86
	"	"	Melter & Refiner's a/c of Gold For Wastage allowed him on 22.769.048 Ounces of Gold Bullion, used in his Dep^{t} during 1859.	86	15
				8 529	31

& Loss Cr

				Dollars	cts
1859					
Decr.	31	By	Gold Bullion deposited for Coinage		
			For Parting charges on Gold Bullion deposited for Coinage, 4th Qr 1859.	434	83
	"	"	Silver Bullion deposited for Coinage		
			For Sundry charges on Silver Bullion deposited during 4th Qr. of 1859	340	85
			For Silver parted for the Mint, from Gold deposited during 4th Qr. of 1859	4	62
	"	"	Gold Coinage		
			For amount transferred from Contingent Fund of this Br. Mint, to liquidate the Wastage of Gold for the Year 1859	187	01
	"	"	Balance		
			To New Account	7562	00
			U. S. Br. Mint, New Orleans	8529	31

Treasurer's Office Decr. 31. 1859

A. Enriod

Treasurer.

Dr

Bullion Deposit

1859				Dollars	cts
Dec.	31	To	Balance To New Account	1	636 81
				1	636 81

Profit & Loss

Cr

				Dollars	cts
1859					
Sept.	30	By	Balance		
			Per Account rendd to date	763	54
Dec.	31	"	Gold Bullion deposited for Coinage		
			For Coinage charge on the gross value of Gold Bullion deposited for Coinage during the 4th Quarter of 1859, and Silver separated therefrom for the benefit of the Depositor	389	98
	"	"	Silver Bullion deposited for Coinage		
			For Coinage charge on the gross value of Silver Bullion deposited during the 4th Quarter of 1859, and Gold parted therefrom for the benefit of the Depositor	483	29
				1636	81

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Dec. 31st. 1859

A. J. Davis
Treasurer.

Dr. Silver Purchase

1859				Dollars	¢
Dec.r	31	To	Silver Purchases For difference between cost price and the intrinsic value of Silver Purchases for the 4th Quarter of 1859.	13477	71
	"	"	Gold Coinage For premium paid on Silver parted for the Depositor, from Gold deposited for Coinage, 4th Quarter of 1859	954	16
	"	"	Coiner's a/c of Silver For Wastage allowed him on 3.173.789.74 Ounces of Silver Bullion used in this Depart.t during 1859.	650	43
	"	"	Melter & Refiner's a/c of Silver For Wastage allowed him on 3.187.046.87 Ounces of Silver Bullion used in his Depart.t during 1859	2043	17
	"	.	Balance To New Account	26481	39
				43606	86

Profit & Loss Cr

				Dollars	cts
1859					
Septr.	30	By	Balance		
			Per Account rend to date	19551	10
Decr.	31	"	Silver Coinage		
			For the enhanced nominal value of 278.400 00/100 Ounces of Silver Coins, recd. from Coiner, 4th Quarter of 1859	24043	64
	"	"	Silver Bullion purchd. for Coinage		
			For Charges for refining Sundry Silver Purchases, during 4th Quarter of 1859	12	12
				43606	86

U. S. Br. Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Decr. 31st. 1859
A. J. Thirot
Treasurer.

Melter & Refiner's acct of Bullion

			Ounces		dec
1859. December	31	Gold, Dr.	23	558	514
		Cr.	22	769	048
		Balance		789	466
		Bullion weighed oz 758.978			
		" in Sweep " 25.857			
		Wastage " 4.631		789	466
1859 December	31	Silver, Dr.	3.217	956	53
		Cr.	3.187	046	87
		Balance	30	909	66
		Bullion weighed. oz 27.329.23			
		" in Sweep. " 1.824.58			
		Wastage. " 1.755.85	30	909	66

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, Decr. 31st. 1859.
A. J. Quiros
Treasurer.

Coiners acct of Bullion

			Ounces	dec
1859				
December	31	Gold. Dr	22155	707
		Cr	22029	657
		Balance	126	050
		Bullion weighed oz 118.529		
		" in Sweep " 2.100		
		Wastage " 5.421	126	050
1859				
December	31	Silver Dr.	3.230 693	79
		Cr.	3.173 789	74
		Balance	56 904	05
		Bullion weighed. oz 56.222.84		
		" in Sweep " 122.25		
		Wastage " 558.96	56 904	05

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, Decr. 31st. 1859
A. J. Quirós
Treasurer.

Statement of Gold & Silver Coins reserved for Assaying, at the Branch of the United States Mint, New Orleans, during the Year 1859.

Months	Gold: Double Eagles	Gold: Eagles	Gold: Value of Gold	Silver: Dollars	Silver: Half Dollars	Silver: Quarter Dollars	Silver: Dimes	Silver: Half Dimes	Silver: Value of Silver		Total value of Gold & Silver	
	Pieces	Pieces	Dollars	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Dollars	cents	Dollars	cents
January	2	"	40	"	72	"	"	"	36	"	76	"
February	"	"	"	"	96	"	"	"	48	"	48	"
March	1	"	20	"	41	24	30	112	35	10	55	10
April	"	"	"	"	34	28	"	"	24	"	24	"
May	"	"	"	"	40	"	"	"	20	"	20	"
June	2	"	40	40	"	"	"	"	40	"	80	"
July	1	"	20	22	40	"	"	"	42	"	62	"
August	"	"	"	"	80	"	"	"	40	"	40	"
September	"	"	"	"	38	"	"	"	19	"	19	"
October	"	"	"	10	60	"	"	"	40	"	40	"
November	1	"	20	"	40	"	"	"	20	"	40	"
December	1	1	30	"	26	"	66	"	19	60	49	60
Total	8	1	170	72	567	52	96	112	383	70	553	70

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Decr 31st. 1859.

A. Guiras
Treasurer.

Profit Loss
Statement 4th Qr 1859
Pr Mint New Orleans

Settlement Coml &
Melter & Refiner

Assay Com's Report
1859

NEW ORLEANS – 1859 (CONT.)

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans Jany 17th 1859

Sir

Dr Taylor, Coroner, has addressed me a letter, renewing his application for leave of absence, for the purpose set forth in his letter to you of 4th inst.

In accordance with the direction contained in your letter to me of 15th Dec I submit the application to you, with the following remarks.

On the first day of august last, the following entry was made by the Coroner in the requisition book.

"It is respectfully requested that A Palmer "Jr be recognized as acting Coroner, in case of "my temporary absence, for whose acts, I am "responsible- respectfully B.F.T." This request was granted.

From about the seventh of august, till about 20th October Dr Taylor was in the city, only two or three times, each time remaining in the city probably less than a day. During the Coroners absence Mr Palmer his foreman represented him, in a manner entirely satisfactory- and there is no cause of complaint against him for this absence- because the epidemic was prevailing in the city, and he not being acclimated it would have been hazardous for him to have remained. But his absence in the summer affords a good reason, why he should not be absent now. The frequent, and protracted absence

of a public office from the discharge of his official Duties is liable to many and grave objections, and can be readily understood & appreciated, without being detailed, or enlarged upon.

These remarks are of general application, but become significant, when applied to the Coiner. His presence at this Branch, at this time, is important in view of the condition of our branch of this Department.

Whilst the Mint Building was being repaired the Coiner had to surrender the punching room for repairs, and temporary accommodations were provided for him, on the ground floor. But the rooms thus provided are small, badly lighted, & altogether unfit for the purpose for which they were, & are still used. The old punching room is ready for use, but as yet, and not used, for the want of certain machinery, which is not yet ready, though it has been ordered. I think, the presence of the Coiner would materially facilitate the reorganization of this Branch of this Department.

Whether the objects proposed to be attained by the Coiners visit to Philadelphia are of so much importance, as to outweigh the objections I have interposed I leave to your decision, remarking that most of the machinery in use in this Branch is believed to be of the latest pattern and of the best workmanship; and that

only a few years since, the Foreman Superintendent of this Branch was ordered to Philadelphia for the purpose of witnessing the operations of the parent Mint, in order that he might introduce onto this Branch such improvements as he might there find. I am therefore of opinion that the public service requires that the Coiners' application be not granted.

Very respectfully
Wm. A. Elmore
Supt

James Ross Snowden Esq
Director Mint
Philadelphia

From Supt
The Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Application of
the Comer for
leave of absence
received & Supts
views thereon. —
Expresses the opinion
that for reasons stated
it is inexpedient
to grant the Comer
leave of absence
Jan 27, 1869 —

Jan. 17. 9.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 17th inst. I concur with you in the opinion that it does not seem advisable at the present time to give Mr. Conrad a protracted leave of absence. I. Because his presence appears to be necessary to aid in the reorganization of the Coining Department, which has been somewhat disarranged in consequence of the recent repairs in the Mint building: and 2. It is probable that I will visit your Institution during the latter part of the next month; and it would be inconvenient for Mr. Conrad to be absent at that time.

In the event of my ~~[illegible]~~ visiting New Orleans I hope to have the pleasure of meeting all the officers of the branch Mint on that occasion.

I am very respectfully
Your obt. Servant,
Robert Patterson
Director of the Mint.

Wm. A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Branch Mint.
New Orleans.

OFFICIAL.

Treasury Department,

20th January 1859.

Sir:

It being reported to the Department that some difficulty exists at the Branch Mint in New Orleans, in reference to the allotment of rooms in the Building for the varied uses of its officers, I have to request, that, unless you can arrange the difficulty by letter, you will proceed to New Orleans and make a proper settlement of all details in reference to it, and your expenses for the journey will be paid by the Department.

To
James Ross Snowden Esq.
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia
Pa.

Very respectfully,
Howell Cobb
Secretary of the Treasury.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

Dated Jan 20, 1859

Received " 22 "

SUBJECT:

Difficulty existing at the Branch Mint, New Orleans. — Visit of the Director of the Mint to settle the difficulty

Directors reply enclosed.

Jan. 22. 9.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 20th inst, respecting the difficulty which has arisen at the branch Mint in New Orleans in regard to the allotment of the rooms in the building.

The near approach of the time fixed by Law for the Annual Assay will prevent my visiting New Orleans until after that event. But, if the difficulty is not otherwise satisfactorily arranged, I will, as soon as the annual assay has been made repair to New Orleans in accordance with your directions.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director of the Mint.

Hon. Howell Cobb.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

Branch Mint N. O.
January 25th 1859.

Sir:

I had supposed that the decision of the Secretary of the Treasury, in the matter of residences, had given a quietus to that subject. It appears, however, to have been again revived.

It would afford me pleasure to forward the views of the Superintendent, were it consistent to do so without detriment to my Department. His right over every other Officer, in being accommodated with a residence, is fully and frankly acknowledged. But its necessity, under existing circumstances, or the advantage to be derived by the Government, is as emphatically denied.

It is a favorite argument that the Superintendent is the head of the Police, and that their proper control would be facilitated by his residence in the building. If he was proper, this could be equally and as effectually accomplished by delegating the proper authority to his Officers; who, it cannot be controverted, have heavy pecuniary responsibilities, together with their lives, at stake; whilst the Superintendent has none whatever, save that of a moral one.

The Coiner's residence was given me upon entering upon the discharge of the duties of that office. My securities were bound in a bond to the Government with a full

hundred of the risks then incurred, and if they are to be still further increased by placing the Superintendent, or any one else, in the quarters so intimately and indispensably connected with my Department, thus exposing the safety of the treasures committed to my charge, and subjecting my securities and myself to increased risks, without the slightest benefit to the Public service, I submit that it would be impolitic, and to say the least, unjust.

There is not a vault in the building that is Burglar proof. We must rely solely upon the Watchman, at night, in whose efficiency, I am sorry to say, I place but little reliance. They can be, and have been, on more than one occasion, found fast asleep in their boxes.

In view of these circumstances I cannot voluntarily submit, or consent, to any new arrangement of the Coining Department, or the occupancy of my quarters by the Superintendent or any one else, unless it is of manifest advantage to the Public service.

I have the honor to be,
Very Respectfully,
Your Ob't Servant,
R. P. Taylor,
Coiner,

James Ross Snowden Esqr
Director of Mint,
Philadelphia,

Jan. 22, 9.

Sir,

If I am unable from the replies I may receive from you to my former communication respecting the allotment of the rooms in the Mint building, to arrange the difficulty in a satisfactory manner, it is my intention to visit your Institution in the latter part of next month. I would set out at an earlier time but I cannot leave the Mint until after the next annual Appy. The Appy Commissioners meet on the 14th of February. I will, if the difficulty is not otherwise determined, therefore have the pleasure of seeing you and the other officers, about the 25 of February; and I doubt not, will be able from a personal inspection, to settle the difficulty in a satisfactory manner.

I am, very respectfully
Your obt. servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director of the Mint.

William A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Branch Mint
New Orleans.

Mint of the United States,

Philadelphia, July 23, 1855.

The Director of the Mint gives notice, in pursuance of an authorization from the Secretary of the Treasury, and in consequence of the present accumulation of silver coin at the Mint, that from and after the first day of August next, and until further notice, the purchases of Silver for coinage will be paid for in Silver coins only, and not in Gold.

The Silver offered for purchase will be weighed, melted and assayed, as usual, and the standard weight determined therefrom, in ounces troy, to the hundreth part of the ounce; and will be paid for (as at present) at the rate of one dollar twenty-two and a-half cents per standard ounce. The receipt given at the first weighing must be presented by the seller or his order, and usually payment may be expected on the day following the date of receipt, or the second day following.

For the information of bullion dealers, country banks, &c., it may be stated, that according to the above rate of purchase, the yield of various classes of coin or bullion will be about as follows:

Five-franc pieces,	99 cents each.
Mexican and South American dollars,	106¼ "
Old Spanish dollars,	105 "
Revolutionary or "hammered" dollars, (often mistaken for the true Spanish dollar,)	101 "
Half-dollars of the U. S. coined before 1837,	52¼ "
The same since 1837 to the last change of standard in 1853,	52½ "
Spanish quarters,	23½ "
" eighths,	10 9-10 "
" sixteenths,	5⅛ "
Mexican quarters,	25 4-10 "

Quarter dollars are proportionally less productive of premium, while dimes and half-dimes, coined before 1837, have lost rather more by wear, on an average, than the premium would make up; those coined since 1837 to 1853, will average a premium of 3½ per cent. on their nominal value.

German, Swedish, Danish and Norwegian crowns,	111 cents each.
Old French crowns	114 "
German florins,	41½ "
Prussian and Hanoverian thalers	72 "

Fine silver 136 cents per ounce.

American plate, best manufacture, 120 to 122 cents per ounce.

Genuine British plate, 125 cents per ounce.

At San Francisco the purchases may be paid for in *Gold* or *Silver*, at the option of the Superintendent thereat, until a sufficient supply of silver bullion is received to meet the public demand for silver coin at that Institution.

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,
Director of the Mint.

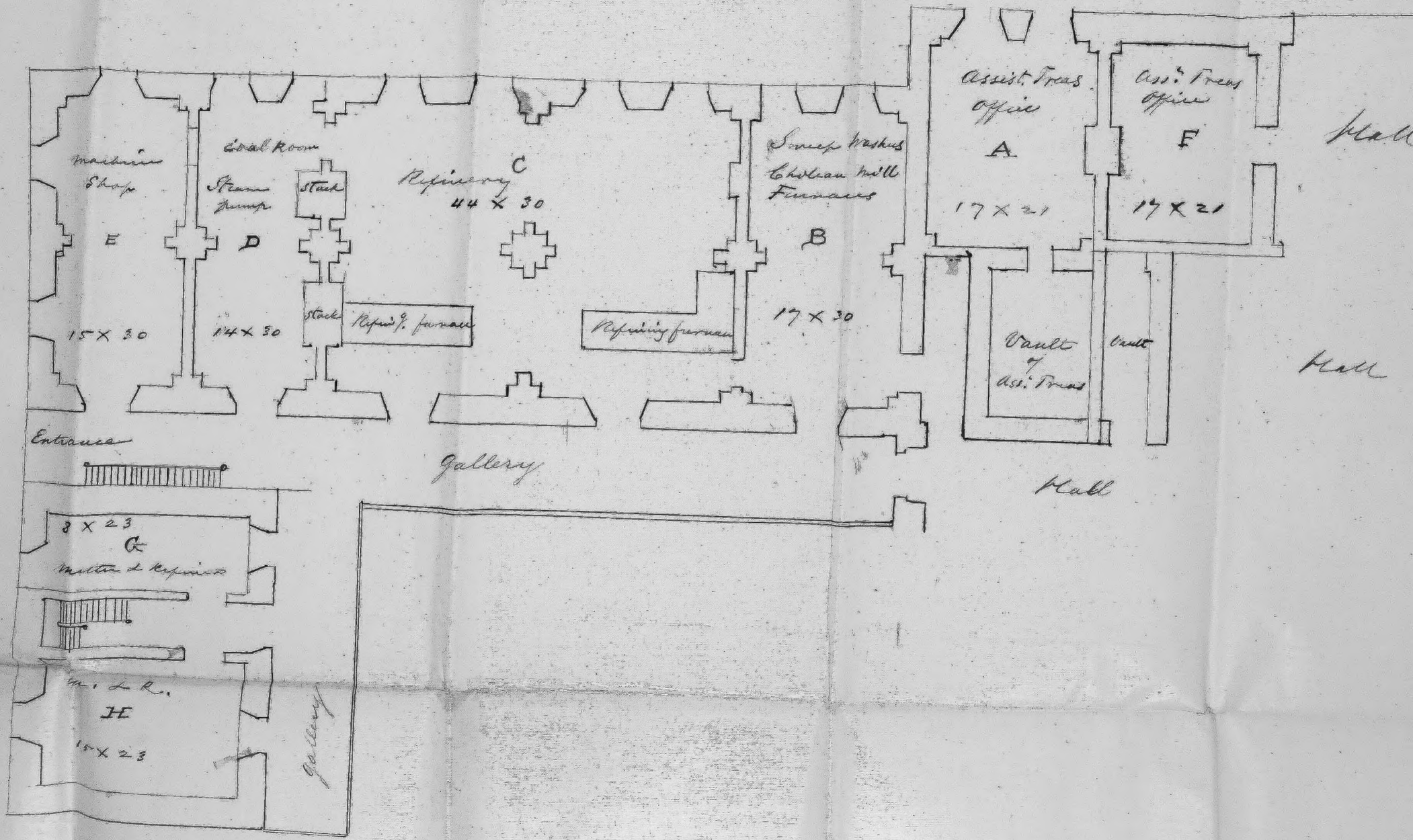
To,
Wm. A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

State my intention
of visiting the Br
Mint &c

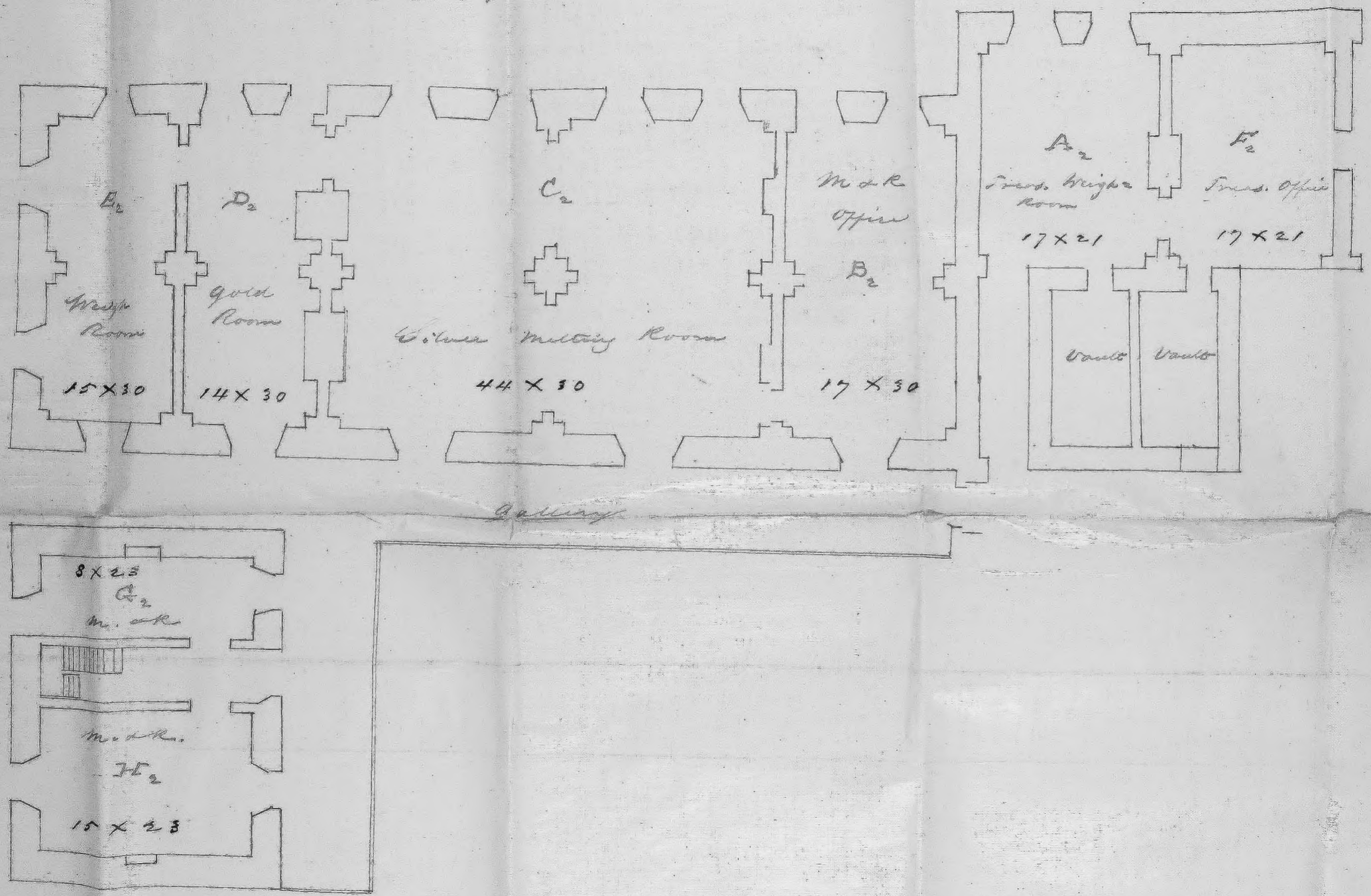
June 2, 1839

Jan 22, 1859

Melting Department
First or Ground Floor



Second Floor



The rooms in the 3d. story are of the same size as those of the 1st & 2d. stories

In the 1st. Story		in the 2d. story		in the 3d. story	
A_1	Ass. Treasurer's office & Vault	A_2	Treasurer's Weigh-Room & Vaults	A_3	Workmen's dressing & dining Room (23 of Supt.s sketch)
B_1	Sweep washers, Mill & furnaces	B_2	Melter & Refiner's office	B_3	Carpenter's shop (24 " " ")
C_1	Refinery	C_2	Silver Melting Room	C_3	Kent's Sweep washers, crucibles, sweep &c &c. (25 & 26)
D_1	Coal Room, steam-pump, blower	D_2	Gold melting Room	D_3	Cupel furnace, melting furnace & Cistern (27)
E_1	Machine shop	E_2	M & R. Weigh-Room	E_3	M & R Laboratory. (28)
F_1	Ass. Treasurer's Office	F_2	Treasurer's office	F_3	Pattern Room (22)
G & H	M. & R. dwelling, very small windows, with iron bars	G_2 & H_2	M & R. dwelling	G_3 & H_3	M. & R. dwelling, rooms that cannot be occupied in the summer on account of excessive heat.

The old assay Department

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Melter & Refiner's Office Jan 22 1859

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge my obligations for the transmission of a copy of your letter to the Director of the mint, dated Dec. 20th 1858, and for your kind permission (of which I have availed myself) to peruse and take a copy of the letter of the Director to yourself dated Jan 12th 1859. On the several points presented in these letters, I beg leave to make the following remarks.

The questions requiring discussion and elucidation seem to be the following:

1st Is there sufficient room in the building for the convenient carrying on of the work, and for suitable accommodations for the Superintendent?

2d If not, should the Melter & Refiner, Coiner, or Sup't, be required to yield up his residence for the public service? This question involves also an inquiry into the position and extent of the respective residences, and into the advantages arising to the service from permitting the officers named to reside in the mint building.

Before entering on the discussion of these points, I would remark that it has always appeared to me proper and desirable, that all the officers should reside in the building, if room could be found for their accommodation without encroaching upon the rooms necessary for the convenient working of the departments. Their residence in the building not only enables them to devote a much greater portion of

their time to the service, and gives the greatest possible security to the treasures committed to their charge; for it enables those who have the greatest possible interest in their safety, to guard them more effectually. Moreover the almost continual presence of the officers at the institution produces a decidedly good effect upon the behaviour of the employees. There was not room however to accommodate all the officers, and the Superintendent, Cashier, and Melter & Refiner, were the officers designated by the Director to occupy the several rooms provided for residences. In selecting besides the Superintendent, the Cashier and Melter & Refiner, he was, I presume, guided by the consideration, that, being in charge of the greatest number (in fact all) the workmen, and of a great amount of treasure, these officers should be at their stations as much as possible, and have every facility in the performance of their duty and in the safe-keeping and control of the treasures for which they are held responsible.

This being premised, I shall now, respectfully, express my views upon the two questions proposed.

1st. At the establishment of this branch, and during the first two or three years of its existence, there was certainly an abundance of room for all operative purposes and for the residences of the Superintendent, Cashier and Melter & Refiner. I am not aware that there was ever any inconvenience felt by any of the departments until the discovery of gold in California suddenly increased the supply of bullion to such an extent as to require a much enlarged apparatus for refining. The

inconvenience then felt was however, in a measure, overcome by a judicious arrangement of the furnaces and other apparatus, in the manner in which they stand to the present day. The garret over the Melter & Refiner's department served as a store-room for crucibles and other materials, and as a place for drying, mixing, weighing and storing the sweep. By the late distribution the rooms C_3, D_3 & E_3 (see sketch herewith enclosed) on the 3d. floor, were added to the Melting department, and their aquisition permitted a more convenient arrangement for working the sweeps, for which purpose the garret cannot well be used since the new roof has been put on, on account of the braces, tie-bolts &c &c crossing it in every direction, and the excessive heat under the low metallic roof, in the Summer. I know of no possible arrangement, by which a suitable residence could be provided for the Superintendent except by placing him in the rooms formerly occupied by him, and now in possession of the Assayer. This would require the removal of the Assay department into some other suitable rooms; and it naturally occurs that it might be put back where it was previous to the new distribution, that is, into the rooms C_3 D_3 & E_3 occupied by the Melting & Refining department, which rooms could not be taken away without serious inconvenience. In the report of Capt. Duncan the Assayer gave his reasons why these rooms were not a proper location for his department. In April 1858, when that report was made, the repairs were progressing on that very part of the building, and the roof

was not yet put on, and one of the most serious objections to that part of the building as a location for the Assay department, had not yet been felt, and could not, therefor, be stated at the time. It is this: The metallic (corrugated iron) roof being of a good heat-conducting material, and low, the heat of the sun in the summer causes such an elevation of temperature in the garret that the brick arches and iron beams, forming the ceiling of the rooms in the third story, become heated and continue to radiate heat by day and night into the rooms below. Immediately under D_3 is the Silver melting room D_2 where the furnaces, consuming nearly 1000 Barells of charcoal per month keep the arches below (i.e. the floor of D_3) at a very high heat. Now it is evident that a room in the third story of a brick-house, heated from above and below, cannot, in the summer season of this climate, be a suitable place to execute delicate operations, such as assaying, which require the doors and windows to be shut half the time. During the past summer I was obliged to occupy, as an office, for a short time, room B_3, and though the roof over that room is much higher and there is no melting room under it, the temperature was invariably 5 or 6 degrees higher than in the second story, a difference not easily borne without fatigue when the temperature has once reached 85° or 90°. I deem the objection just stated paramount in force to any that have been made, and, apart from other objections and the fact that these rooms are necessary to the Melting Department, this single one should

decide against the practicability of locating the Assay department in that part of the building. The only room, that could be taken from the melting department without inconvenience, is the pattern room F_3; and the room A_3 might be given up without much inconvenience. All the other rooms are necessary.

Being only interested in such changes of the rooms as may be the means of depriving my department of its necessary accomodations, I shall not presume to dwell upon any of the other changes proposed, at different times, none of which would have affected my department injuriously. I shall now present my humble opinion on the second question.

2.d One glance at the spacious & elegant apartments, situated in the main body of the building, heretofore occupied as the residence of the Superintendent, and at the small tenements situated in the wings, one adjoining the melting department on one side, the other the Superintendents' residence on the other, must not fail to impress the observer that the Superintendents' residence was allotted to him as a matter of emolument and dignity due to his position as Chief Officer of the institution, and that the two dwellings occupied, respectively, by the Coiner and Melter & Refiner, were intended, simply, to place these officers near their work, which continues from morning to night; and near the bullion for the safe-keeping of which they have given bond and are held to a faithful account.

A reference to the sketch of the building

VI

will show that the only entrance, on the second and third floor, to the Melter & Refiners dwelling is by the galleries, and on the ground floor, by the passage or gallery contiguous and indispensable to the Refinery. In the second story the Silver & gold melting rooms and Weigh-room, where large amounts of the precious metals are constantly exposed during the working hours, are equally contiguous to the dwelling, to which there is no access without passing on the galleries where the Melter & Refiners bullion is constantly passing. The dwelling is moreover small and there are many annoyances connected with its occupancy such as the dust from the charcoal, the fumes arising from the adjacent refinery. Three of the rooms, as will appear from the drawing, are only 8 feet wide by 23 ft. long and both rooms of the 3d. story are useless in the summer by reason of their excessive heat. In consideration of all this, I doubt that this dwelling would afford sufficient accommodation for the Superintendent, if it were given to him. In occupying this dwelling I have considered myself rather as discharging a duty to the government and my interest & safety, than receiving an emolument. However this I desire to remain in it because it enables me to be in or about my department at all times and to exercise proper vigilance over it. Much as I would desire the constant presence of the Supt in the establishment, I could not silently consent to his occupying the dwelling assigned to the Melter and Refiner, because the Superintendents visitors and servants would be continually obliged to pass over the galleries and by the rooms where my bullion is exposed during the whole day and only imperfectly secured

VII.

at night. The work of the melting and refining department does not admit of being daily & accurately controlled, and frequently a week and more must elapse before the result of an operation can be, even approximately, ascertained. In case of a depredation, so easily possible, of the Melter & Refiner he debarred from exercising proper control and vigilance over the persons paying on the gallows adjacent to his department, it would be almost impossible for that officer to discover the loss in time, and if it were discovered, to establish that the loss did not occur by his fault and his negligence. I can hardly suppose it possible that the Supt could desire to occupy this dwelling as he would thereby put in unnecessary peril the safety and honor of the Melter & Refiner.

Though it appears very just and reasonable on general principles, "that if any officer be required to give up his residence for the public service, it should not be the Supts", it ought however in this case to be considered, that the rooms formerly occupied by Superintendents were such as were useful for the business on account of their size and position, whilst the small rooms of the two other dwellings could not have answered for the same purposes. The presence of the Melter and Refiner at the mint may be necessary at any and all times, and can be commanded by the Superintendent. Occasionally, the nature of the bullion worked, or the quality of the fuel used, force the Melter & Refiner to commence the work before, or continue it after the regular hours. The Superintendent

VIII visits to the mint are never dependent on the State or progress of the work, in any of the departments, and he consequently fixes the time and duration of his visits at his pleasure. I feel constrained, therefore to maintain that the Superintendent is the officer whose absence from the institution is attended with the least inconvenience to the business and disadvantage to the interests of the government, though it is always a source of gratification and pleasure to the officers to have their chief to observe and witness their operations as often and as long as possible.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

M. F. Bonzano

Melter & Refiner

Wm. A. Elmore Esq.,

Superintendent.

OFFICIAL.

Treasury Department,

26 January 1859.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt, this day, of your letter of the 22 inst. and to say in reply that you will delay going to New Orleans until after the annual assay.

If, by that time, the matter is not arranged, you will proceed to New Orleans as directed by the Department letter of the 20 inst.

To
James Ross Snowden Esq
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia
Pa

Very respectfully,
Howell Cobb
Secretary of the Treasury.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Dated Jan 26. 1859

Received Jan 27.

SUBJECT:

Visit of Director of the Mint to Br Mint New Orleans

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Jan 24th 1859

Sir

I have only to re-iterate the arguments expressed in former communications — with which the Director is familiar — in reference to the fitness of the rooms now occupied by me for the Assaying Department, they are, in fact, the only rooms in the Mint building adapted to such purposes. The Director declares in his letter, that the transfer of my dept to where it is at present, is advantageous, and I have consequently nothing more to ask.

I Remain, very Respectfully
Your Obdt Sbt
J. H. Millspaugh
Assayer

To
Wm A. Elmore Esqr
Superintendent

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Melter & Refiner's Office Jan. 31st. 1857

Sir,

I beg leave to submit the following remarks in explanation of a statement occurring in my letter (page V.) of the 22d. inst, which statement reads as follows: "The only room that could "be taken from the Melting Department without "inconvenience, is the pattern room F_3; and the "room A_3 might be given up without much "inconvenience."

The slight inconvenience attending the transfer to, and occupation by, another department of the room A_3, is not of sufficient weight to justify me in urging the propriety of allowing the same to remain attached to my department, if by its surrender the views of the Superintendent can be promoted. And in order that the inconvenience spoken of may be fairly appreciated I would state that it consists:

1st. In the removal of the workmen's dressing closets.

2d. In the occupation of a portion of the the room C_3 by the workmen, which is the only other proper place where they could be put, and which room is now used for other useful purposes.

3d. In the exclusion of the Melter & Refiner from a portion of the machinery attached to his department, the band and pulley driving the shaft in the 5th. Story being situated in the room A_3.

Very Respectfully, your obt. Svt.
A. F. Bonzano
Melter & Refiner

Wm. A. Elmore, Esq,
Superintendent.

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF January 1859

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting. Ounces.	Dec.	Standard Weight. Ounces.	Dec.	Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Value after Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold.										
Mexican Doubloons	93	65	91	464	1.	70166	1.	688444		
Do. Bullion	3.	031 18	4	1 999	7.	66509	7.	54931		
Unknown Do	1	23 14		65754	1.	22333	1.	21383		
					8.	88842				
U. S. Bullion, Cal^{a}.	62	720	59	8763	11.	13978	11.	05527		
									21.	72986
Silver										
French Coins	16	830	16	830	19	584				
Mexican Do re	44	90020	44	877 25	52.	22080				
Peruvian Do re		264 85		250 72		29175				
Spanish Do re ✓		219 85		214 96		25013				
Mexican Bullion	25.	73938	27.	52516	32.	02928				
Unknown Do.		474 24		390 10		45393				
U. S. Coins re		431 365		429 475		49976				
					90.	43926				
Do. Bullion, Cal^{a}.		57 960		79 37		9236				
									90.	53162
									112.	26148

✓ $1.995 in Change.

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold					
Double Eagles	1750	35000	00		
				35.	000000
Silver					
Half Dollars	360000	180000	00		
				180.	000000
				215.	000000

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, January 31st 1859.

D. J. Bunner
Treasurer

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans. Feby 3d 1859

Sir

I send herewith the monthly statements of Deposit & Coinage, and coins reserved for assay during Jany 1859; I also, forward by this days mail, two boxes containing the assay coin for the same month.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

James Ross Snowden Esq
Director Mint
Philadelphia

From Fla
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Assay coins
Report Jan 1859

Feb 10, 1859

Correspondence
Branch Mints

February 1859

Feb 9. 1859.

Director sent T/D to Supt Br
Mint New Orleans asking him
to state the time the present Coiner
entered on the duties of his office.

7/5
to Supt B Mint
New Orleans

Feb 10. 57.

Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d inst with the enclosures stated, also, two packages containing the assay coins of your branch mint for the month of January last.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden,
Director of the Mint.

Wm A. Elmore Esq.
Supt Br. Mint.
New Orleans,
La.

United States Branch Mint.

New Orleans, Feb'y 8th 1859

Sir.

Your letter of the 12th ult. in reply to mine of the 20th December, was duly received, and its contents forthwith made known to the Coiner, Melter & Refiner, and Assayer. And I herewith enclose your their several communications in answer to your suggestion that the subject in controversy be amicably arranged between us. I am sorry that your suggestion has not received from these gentlemen a favorable consideration, because, I think the whole subject could and ought to have been satisfactorily arranged, not only without detriment to the public interest, but with manifest advantage to it; and with perfect convenience to all parties concerned; and which would have saved you from the disagreeable necessity of deciding the matter at issue between us.

In your letter of 12th ult. two points are decided,

1st The public interests must be paramount to the convenience of the officer.

2d The Superintendent ought to be provided with suitable rooms in the Mint, if any officer is provided with them, if it can be done without detriment to the public service.

Under this decision it would very plainly appear that the only question to be considered in the discussion, was, whether by introducing the Superintendent of the Mint into the building, the public service would sustain any detriment

Two points arise under this proposition. The first is, whether the presence of the Superintendent in the Mint, would operate injuriously to the public service. The other is, would the public convenience be injuriously affected in any new arrangement of the rooms which might be necessary in order to give him accomodation therein. The first of these two questions I will not discuss; but after some other observations, of a general nature, I will examine the second question

In order to give the Superintendent a residence in the Mint, I propose that the Melter & Refiner give up rooms Nos. 22, 23, and 24, which are not necessary for his department; and that the Coiner give up rooms Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21, which were accorded to him under the recommendation in Capt. Duncan's report. (the last four rooms being designed for the Assayer, by the late Superintendent, Mr. Knight, in the re-arrangement of the rooms after the repairs of the building) and that the Coiner take the rooms Nos 22, 23 and 24 vacated by the Melter and Refiner, and place the Assayer, in rooms Nos. 19, 20, and 21, thus vacated by the Coiner, or to remove the Assayer into that portion of the building occupied by the Coiner, as a residence, or into that portion of it occupied by the Melter & Refiner, for the same purpose.

This arrangement would restore to the Superintendent his old quarters, being Nos. 13 and 14 on the first floor, and Nos. 15, 16, 17, and 18 on the second floor. I refer

to the sketch of the second floor, which you will find herewith

Now, what are the objections to this arrangement? as formd in Capt. Duncan's report "The Melter & "Refiner on the other hand, decidedly objects to giving "up rooms Nos. 22. 23, and 24, even when receiving, in re- "turn the old Assaying Department, Nos. 25, 26, 27, and 28. "and the two basements now occupied by the Assistant "Treasurer."

The Carrier objects as follows: "He furthermore "states that his present working room is of the smallest "possible capacity, and that it cannot be reduced by "giving up Nos. 19, 20 & 21, on the second floor, without re- "ceiving in return, the corresponding rooms on the "other side, Nos 22. 23 & 24.; and that even this change "is not advisable, because, that No. 20. is designed as a "private Machine shop, for the manufacture of dies, &c "and being directly opposite the main Machine shop. "he can connect his Machinery in No 20. with great "advantage, and at inconsiderable expense, by "connecting it with the Machinery of the Main "Machine shop, an advantage, which he states No. "23. on the other side does not possess."

The Melter & Refiner objects to giving up rooms Nos. 22. 23 and 24 but assigns no reason for his ob- jections. — and the Carrier objects to giving up Nos 19. 20. & 21 though he accepts, in return the corresponding rooms Nos. 22. 23. & 24, because No. 20 is designed as a private Machine

shop for the manufacture of dies &c. Now. I have great doubt, whether an additional machine shop is necessary for the Coining Department; but certainly the trouble and expense of fitting up No 23. are too insignificant to stand in the way of the proposed arrangement. I learn from Mr. Guest, the present Treasurer of this Branch, and Cashier for the last four years immediately preceding the appointment of the present Cashier, That Nos. 19, 20. were the only rooms in that part of the building occupied by him, as Cashier, during his entire term of service in office and that the room for his department was ample and sufficient, That No 19 was occupied as a storage-room, and that No. 20, was used as an eating and dressing room by the workmen employed in the Coining Department.

As I understand the Melter & Refiner in his two communications to me, he does not object to giving up Nos 22 & 23. but does object to giving up any other room. He does not state for what purpose No. 24 is now used, nor does he state for what purpose Nos 25 & 26, are necessary. Now. No. 24. is used as a Carpenter's shop for the Melter & Refiner, and 25 & 26 are used to put the sweep in, but may be used for other purposes, particularly as a carpenter's shop. That No 24 is necessary for the Melter and Refiner, I do not believe

At the present time rooms Nos 17. 18. 19. 20. & 21. with the exception of room No 20 (which is used as an

eating room) are filled with old Machinery, and lumber, and are applied to no particular purpose

In my letter to you of 20th. December, I gave it as my opinion that there was room enough in the building for all operative purposes, and for residences for the Superintendent, the Coiner, and Melter & Refiner. In the several communications of these officers this proposition is not denied, but an attempt is made to avoid its effect by general remarks, having no connection or bearing on that point

For instance, the Assayer says he has "only to reiterate the arguments expressed in former communications, with which the Director is familiar", what these arguments are, I do not know, and consequently can not be expected to reply to them. But I feel authorized in saying, that now, for the first time, does the Assayer set up the extravagant pretention that the rooms "now occupied by him for the Assay Department", are in fact the only rooms "in the Mint building adapted for to such purposes"

The rooms to which I propose to remove the Assayer, as I have already stated, are three of the same rooms which were prepared for him under the Superintendence of Mr. R. Knight with which he was satisfied, until it was proposed to put Mr. Alfriente into the Superintendents

Quarters, then it was, for the first time, that the Assayer objected to going into the rooms designed for him by the Superintendent. He did not, then, however, interpose any objection to the rooms themselves, - he did not object that they were not adopted to the Assay Department. Then the Assayer was of the opinion, that the Superintendents' quarters were suitable for a residence, and actually addressed a letter to the Superintendent, claiming the rooms as a residence for himself. What would have been the condition of the Assay Department, if the Superintendent had acceded to his request, and given him the Superintendents' quarters for a residence! According to the letter of the Assayer, now addressed to me, he would have been occupying as a residence, the only rooms in the building adopted to the business of the Assay Department. The inconsistency of the positions assumed, when the Assayer wanted the Superintendents' quarters himself, for a residence, and when he did not want the Superintendent to occupy them for the same purpose, is so marked as to require no comment. That the rooms now occupied by the Assayer are adopted to the purpose for which they are used, I freely admit. But that the rooms into which I propose to put him are as well adopted to the public service, I hesitate not, to affirm. That the rooms Nos 19 20 & 21

are as well adapted to his purposes, I am confident, But, certainly, the residence of the Coiner or that of the Melter & Refiner is much better ~~adapted~~ adapted for the Assay Department, than the quarters of the Superintendent, for the former are not in the main building, but are in the wing, disconnected, altogether, from the machinery and the working Departments of the Coiner and Melter & Refiner. On the 10th Feb.y 1858. the Assayer addressed the following letter to the Superintendent

United States Branch Mint, Assay Department.
New Orleans. Feb.y. 10th 1858.

Dear Sir

Having been informed by you that you do not intend to occupy the lodging assigned for the Superintendent in the Mint, I beg leave to submit— if they are to be used for other than Mint purposes,— my claim to their occupancy. Besides the conveniences and advantages which would result, both to the Department and myself, in occupying a part of the building, wherein my services and personal attention are daily required, and the great saving to me of the important item of Rent. I flatter myself that many years services, as an officer of the Government, will entitle me in your opinion to the privilege I ask.

I am Sir respectfully
Your obt. Sent
To
Logan M Knight } A Millspaugh
Superintendent } Mayor.

I now propose to examine the views presented by the Coiner's letter. And first it would seem that he is not only opposed to surrendering his own residence to the Superintendent; but is, in fact, opposed to the Superintendents having quarters in the Mint. In his opinion the Superintendent has no business with a residence in the Mint at all. He says "His right (meaning Superintendents) over any other officer in being accomodated with a residence is fully and frankly acknowledged." This sentence by itself would go to show that in the opinion of the Coiner, the Superintendent should be accomodated with a residence, as a matter of right, in the Mint, in preference to any other officer, because it is his right. But in the very next sentence occurs the following remarks. "Its necessity under existing circumstances, or the advantages to be derived by the Government, is denied." The inconsistency of these positions cannot be reconciled, — and I pass on to that part of the letter in which he says. "It is a favorite argument, that the Superintendent is at the head of the police, and that their proper controll would be facilitated by his residence in the

building. And if he saw proper this could be equally and as effectually accomplished by delegating the proper authority to his officers, - who, it cannot be controverted, have heavy pecuniary responsibilities, together with their honor at stake. while the Superintendent has none, whatever, save that of a moral one"

This is a candid admission by the Coiner that the Superintendent being the head of the police of the Mint, if he resided in it, would be in a position, more effectually to controll, than if he resided out of it. But the same result is to be effected so long as the Superintendent is excluded from a residence in the Mint, by appointing his officers (while he has no such officers as are here referred to) to perform his (Supts.) duties. or in other words for the Superintendent to authorize the officers residing in the Mint (which means the Coiner & the Melter & Refiner, for they are the only officers residing in it) to exercise his functions, perform his duties, and particularly to control the five watchmen whose

duty it is to guard the Mint at night. This I suggest the Superintendent has no power to do, except in case of absence, when he appoints an acting Superintendent at all times. The course suggested by the Coiner might save the Superintendent from a great deal of trouble, and it might be very agreeable to the Coiner to relieve him of this trouble by assuming to himself acting as Superintendent as to anything connected with the police. Did not the high character of the author of this suggestion forbid the idea it might be inferred that he was to get the control of the police of the Mint, and become responsible himself.

Certainly, so long, as I hold the commission from the President as Superintendent of the Branch Mint, I am bound to perform all the duties incident to the office, neither delegating the power rightfully belonging to it, to any one else, nor willingly, and knowingly, permit anyone else to usurp the power

belonging to it. I must therefore decline to accept the suggestion made by the Coiner, to delegate my power and authority over the police, to any of the other officers of the Institution.

In another part of his letter the Coiner says "there is not a vault in the building that is burglar proof and he goes on to say, that the only reliance is upon the Watchmen whose efficiency cannot be relied on, as they have been found asleep in their boxes. What he says of the Watchmen I am sorry to say is true. There have been within the last three weeks, two Watchmen found asleep on their post. One was dismissed and the other resigned to avoid the same fate and I would add that the Coiner has never reported to me any dereliction of duty on the part of any Watchmen.

There is one other point in the Coiners letter which will be noted in connection with the remarks, I propose

make, on a point in the communication of the Melter & Refiner.

Upon a careful review of the Corners letter, I feel justified in saying, that so far from showing that the Supt. residence in the building would be detrimental to the public service, his letter manifests the necessity of his so doing.

The two questions discussed by the Melter & Refiner do not arise, under the decision, announced in your letter of the 12th ult., and I suppose they are to be considered rather as embracing the Melter & Refiners views upon my letter to you of 20th ult. December. I would remark as I informed you in that letter, that I had furnished copies of my letter to the Several Officers interested. Having possession of copies they remain silent, till a decision is made on two branches of the question, and then, when called upon by the Director for their views upon specified points, they propose to re-open the whole question, and to go behind the decision pronounced

by you — With these observations I proceed to remark, that the points upon which the Mint & Refinery is most elaborate, and which, in fact, fills most of his letter, there is no controversy between us. As you have already seen from what I have said I do not propose to take the rooms formally occupied by the Assayer from the Mint & Refinery nor do I propose to occupy his residence myself — So what he says against restoring the Assayer to his old quarters, and placing me in his residence may be expunged — But there are some portions of his letter that perhaps require some examination.

The rooms of Mint & Refinery both refer to their residences with a view as tending to the security of the Treasures committed to their charge — This argument when examined will be

found altogether intolerable. Let us examine it practically for a moment.

When the labors of the day are over, the money and bullion of every description in their charge is placed in vaults and carefully locked up, where it remains till the next morning, when the vaults are reopened, and daily operations are resumed. In the meantime, the keys of the vaults are in their possession. After the previous notices are placed in the vaults at night, the officers give no further attention to its safe keeping. It does not watch it during the night, but it is guarded, employed and paid for by the Government for the express purpose of protecting it at night. It is not expected of the Coiner & Melter & Refiner that they should assume the responsibility of guarding at night the treasure committed to them — and I hesitate not to say, it is without any power on their part, the vaults which contain the treasure entrusted

to them in their official capacity, the
were broken into, and the Treasurer
stolen therefrom, the government
would not hold them responsible
There is a case which happened
a long time since to the Mesent Mame
& Refiner, which aptly illustrates
correctness of this position. It was
this: an ingot of gold worth about
$900 was stolen from him, and yet
the government never thought of
making him liable for it. There
is in this city some 12 banks, the
aggregate of Treasure in their vaults
must amount to about 16 Millions
yet there are but few of the
Earliers, who are charged with
the custody of the gold and silver
and paper in their vaults, reside
in the bank buildings, and they
do not do so for the protection of
the money entrusted to them, but
do so as a matter of convenience
to themselves but if the Cornier and

Ster & Refiner have any claim to
dency in the Mint based upon their
ody of the public treasures what
ures of the Treasurer to a residence
lise in the Mint — for he is in the
same position towards the government,
having in charge as much of the
public treasure as the other Officers, and
as assistant Treasurer of the United
States occupying rooms in the Mint,
he has upon an average in his
vaults every night about 3 quarters
of a million of dollars. He has
no residence in the Mint — and
its safety when he is not present
is entrusted to the police of the
establishment — then Mr

The answer of Mr. Brennen satisfied the Secretary of the Treasury that the grounds upon which the Treasurer of the Mint based his claims for a residence in the Mint were not tenable and maintained the Superintendent in his residence.

It is further said, that, if the Coiner and Melter & Refiner have their residences in the Mint, they could have a better control over their workmen, than if they resided out of it.

This proposition is not tenable. It is admitted, however, that if they resided in the Mint, it would be more convenient to them in the discharge of their duties; and I think the Director must have seen, that I have exhibited no desire to put them out. But that they would have any better control over their workmen is a mistake. By the 2nd rule of the "General regulations for the Mint and its Branches" "It is required of each officer to give his personal attendance during Mint hours" so that whether he resides in the Mint or out of it, he is obliged to be present — therefore it is an error to suppose, that the public service would sustain detriment unless the Coiner, and Melter & Refiner resided in the Mint Building, — for we have seen by the regulations quoted, that they are obliged to be present at all hours, when the workmen themselves are obliged to be in attendance, whether they reside in the Mint or not.

The Melter & Refiner has stated his objections to the introduction of the Superintendent's

family into his residence — I have already
I did not desire to occupy the residence of
nor do I propose to introduce any other fam
But the objections, stated by that officer,
not apply to the occupancy of his residence for
Department. The Assayer has no dealings
public, and gives employment to but two additi
persons. Certainly that could be no danger
Treasure committed to the care of the Melter
from this source, and this remark applies to the
residence, should the Assay Department be pla

I have the honor to be very
respectfully your obt. svt.
Wm. T. Elmore
Supt.

To James Ross Snowden
Director of the U.S. Mint Philada

Copy
of Letter of Supt
Br Mint New
Mexico 9th
Feb. 1859.

February 1859

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Feby 17th 1859

Sir

Will you be phased to advise me, whether you have ordered for this Branch, a hydraulic press, such as is used in your Mint; and if yea, when may we expect to receive it.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

James Ross Snowden Esq
Director Mint
Philadelphia

Mr Millspaugh Act Supt informed on 13th July that H Press would be ordered immediately. — ordered on 14th July.

Wm. H. A. Elmore Esq
Supt B. Mint
New Orleans

As to order
for Hydraulic
Press.

Feb 25, 1839

Feb. 22. 9.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 9th inst. with the enclosures stated. Although your report is very clear and interesting yet I feel some hesitancy in arranging the rooms for the different departments of business, and for residences, without a personal view of the premises. I therefore, in compliance with the request of the Department, will set out for your city in a few days. There are some points connected with the coinage which it may be useful for me to examine, and will render my visit otherwise of public advantage.

I expect to leave on Thursday next, and will go by the most direct route to Jersey City; and hope to have the pleasure of seeing you and the other officers next week.

Wm. M. Ellmore Esq
Supt. [illegible]

Very respectfully
James Roosevelt
Director.

To
Wm. A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Ack receipt of
papers & state my
intention of starting
to New Orleans
on Thursday

Feb 22, 1839

Feb 23. 9.

Sir,

I send to your address to-day per Adams Express &c a box containing three pair silver dollar dies, and a weight for adjusting that denomination of coin.

I have caused to be prepared, for the use of your branch Mint, an accurate set of weights of the coins of the United States, also, the grain weight and its subdivisions; which I will bring with me to your city.

Very Respectfully,
James R. Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Wm A. Elmore Esq.
Supt Br. Mint,
New Orleans,
La.

To,
Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Forwarding Silver
dollar dies & weight.

Feb 23, 1859

Feb. 23. 9.

Sir,

I find that the arrangement of the rooms appropriated to the business, and the residences of the officers, of the branch Mint at New Orleans, can be more satisfactorily disposed of by a personal view of the building. I shall therefore in accordance with your instructions, visit that Institution. (There are some other matters, connected with the coinage operations, which will render my visit to New Orleans of some public service.

I shall travel by the most direct route to New Orleans, viz Norfolk, Mobile, &c; and hope to return in time for your meeting. During my absence I will be represented at the Mint, by my Clerk D. H. R. Linderman.

If I can be of any service to the

Department, in any other business than that which claims my attention, at New Orleans, or on my route home. I shall be most happy to attend to it. A Communication addressed to me at New Orleans, to the care of the Supt. of the Branch Mint, will doubtless come safely into my hands.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your faithful servant,

James Ross Snowden,
Director of the Mint

Hon. Howell Cobb,
Sec. of the Treasury,
Washington City.

To, The Sec Treasury
Washington City

visit to the Branch
Mint New Orleans
to arrange rooms &c

Feb 28, 1839

Philada Dec 25th 1859

Col J Rob Snowden
Director U S Mint — Philada
Sir

We shall probably finish the Hydrostatic Press for New Orleans, Branch Mint, in about six weeks from this time. Hoping your journey may be an agreeable one we remain.

Yours Respectfully
Wm Sellers & Co

Feb. 25. 9.

Gentlemen:

I would be glad to be informed at what time the Hydraulic Press I ordered for the branch mint at New Orleans will be finished.

I set out for New Orleans to-morrow to visit the branch mint.

The messenger will wait your reply.

Very respectfully
and truly yours
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Messrs Sellers & Co.
16th above Callowhill.

Front

To,
Wm Sellers & Co.
Phila.

As to Hydraulic Press
for Br Mint Sec
Orleans —

Oct 25, 1859 —

FEB-28, 1859

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF February 1859

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting. Ounces.	Dec.	Standard Weight. Ounces.	Dec.	Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Value after Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold										
Brazilian Coins	17	26	17	049	317	19	315	60		
Mexican Bullion	3.097	25	311	280	5.791	26	5.690	56		
Unknown Do.	52	59	12	532	233	15	230	92		
					6.024	41				
U. States Do. Cal^a.	294	86	283	054	5.266	12	5.224	82		
									11.607	72
Silver										
French Coins &c	97	80	95	84	111	52	111	52		
Mexican Do Do.	6.348	35	6.333	26	7.369	61	7.369	61		
Spanish Do. Do.	364	50	363	47	422	95	422	95		
Mexican Bullion	81.984	05	88.481	52	102.960	32	102.596	55		
Unknown Do.	389	39	365	66	425	50	425	50		
U. States Coins &c.	3.707	00	3.697	78	4.302	87	4.302	87		
					115,592	77				
Do. Bullion, Cal^a.	294	86	38	07	44	29	44	29		
									115.637	06
									127.244	78

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold					
No Delivery					
Silver					
Half Dollars	480.000	240.000	00		
Silver Bars		47.599	98		
				287.599	98
				287.599	98

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Feby 28. 1859.
[illegible]
Treasurer

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, March 3d 1859

Sir

Please find herewith, the monthly statements of Deposit & Coinage, and Coins reserved for assay during the month of Feby: I also, forward, by this days mail one box, containing the assay coin for the same month.

Very respectfully

W. C. Elmore
Supt

James R. Snowden Esqr
Director Mint
Philadelphia

Fm To

Supt U.S. Mint
New Orleans
La

Assay com Reports
February 1859

March 11, 1859

March 1859

March 11. 9

Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your letter of the 3d inst with the enclosures stated. also, a package containing the assay coins of Your branch Mint for the month of February ult.

Very Respectfully,
A. R. Linderman
for the Director of the Mint

Wm. A. Elmore Esq,
Supt Br. Mint,
New Orleans,
La.

United States Branch Mint

New Orleans March 14. 9.

Sir,

If desired by the depositor silver bullion may be formed into ingots or bars without refining or toughening the same. In such case there will be an uniform charge of 50 cents per $100. ~~of~~ on the value of the deposit calculating the same at the rate of 116 4/ cents per standard ounce, which charge shall be ac.d for the ord. eff. of the Br. mint. Hereafter the bars will be stamped with the fineness and number of ounces only; that is to say the calculated value will be omitted.

You will please communicate these directions to the Treasurer.

Wm. A. Elmore Esq. Very respectfully
Supt. Branch mint Yours Rob Snowden
New Orleans. Director of the mint.

Mint of the United States,

Philadelphia, July 23, 1855.

The Director of the Mint gives notice, in pursuance of an authorization from the Secretary of the Treasury, and in consequence of the present accumulation of silver coin at the Mint, that from and after the first day of August next, and until further notice, the purchases of Silver for coinage will be paid for in Silver coins only, and not in Gold.

The Silver offered for purchase will be weighed, melted and assayed, as usual, and the standard weight determined therefrom, in ounces troy, to the hundreth part of the ounce; and will be paid for (as at present) at the rate of one dollar twenty-two and a-half cents per standard ounce. The receipt given at the first weighing must be presented by the seller or his order, and usually payment may be expected on the day following the date of receipt, or the second day following.

For the information of bullion dealers, country banks, &c., it may be stated, that according to the above rate of purchase, the yield of various classes of coin or bullion will be about as follows:

Five-franc pieces,	99 cents each.
Mexican and South American dollars,	106¼ "
Old Spanish dollars,	105 "
Revolutionary or "hammered" dollars, (often mistaken for the true Spanish dollar,)	101 "
Half-dollars of the U. S. coined before 1837,	52¼ "
The same since 1837 to the last change of standard in 1853,	52½ "
Spanish quarters,	23½ "
" eighths,	10 9-10 "
" sixteenths,	5⅛ "
Mexican quarters,	25 4-10 "

Quarter dollars are proportionally less productive of premium, while dimes and half-dimes, coined before 1837, have lost rather more by wear, on an average, than the premium would make up; those coined since 1837 to 1853, will average a premium of 3½ per cent. on their nominal value.

German, Swedish, Danish and Norwegian crowns,	111 cents each.
Old French crowns	114 "
German florins,	41½ "
Prussian and Hanoverian thalers	72 "

Fine silver 136 cents per ounce.
American plate, best manufacture, 120 to 122 cents per ounce.
Genuine British plate, 125 cents per ounce.

At San Francisco the purchases may be paid for in *Gold* or *Silver*, at the option of the Superintendent thereat, until a sufficient supply of silver bullion is received to meet the public demand for silver coin at that Institution.

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,
Director of the Mint.

To

Supt R. Mint

New Orleans

La

Unrefined Silver

has authorized to

be made. - Charge

of 50 cts per $100

to be imposed thereon

& proceeds arising

from such charge to

be used for defraying

Expenses R. Mint

A. J.

March 14, 1839 -

Rec'd April 4, 1839

Branch Mint N.O.
March 23rd 1859,

Dear Sir:

We have the honor herewith, to transmit a copy of our letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, which we have deemed it our duty to write him.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obt Servants,
B. F. Taylor,
Coiner,
A. E. Bonzano
Melter & Refiner

James Ross Snowden Esq.
Director of Mint,
Phila.

A. Millspaugh
Assayer

Copy

Appeal of
Operative Officers
R. R. Smith New Orleans

Arrangement of
rooms &c

March 22. 1859

(1.)

Copy.

Branch Mint N. O.
March 21st 1859.

Sir:

The undersigned officers of the Branch Mint at New Orleans beg leave to make the following statement.

In April 1858. Mr Logan McKnight, then Sup.ta of this Mint applied to the Department for authority to assign to his Messenger the rooms occupied by the former Superintendent as a private residence, and for which he himself had no use. The Operative Officers deemed it their duty, to object to the proposed distribution of rooms, and to request permission to convert them into an Assay Department, and other work-shops. Capt: Duncan Sup.t of the repairs of the Mint building being instructed by the Department to investigate the matter, reported, after full and repeated conferences with the Officers concerned, in favor of converting these rooms into work-shops.

The Director, in a letter to you dated April 26th 1858, expressed his general concurrence in the views presented by Capt: Duncan, and adds "that it was highly desirable that the arrangement of the rooms, should, as far as practicable, be satisfactory to all of the Officers of the institution, as they were the best judges of the convenient

working of their several departments, and arrange-
-ments for business."

Your letter dated April 29th 1858, containing the report of Capt. Duncan; and, also, the objection made by the Coiner against the removal of the Superintendents Office into the gallery where his operations must of ne-
-cessity pass every working hour of the day. You say, moreover; "as the Branch Mint was established at New Orleans for the manufacture of the precious metals into coins, the personal convenience of individual Offi-
-cers and employées must be required to give place to that object."

Mr McKnight resigned, ~~[illegible]~~ and Mr Mills passed, the Assayer, ordered to act as Supt until an appointment should be made. Your decision in favor of the report of Capt. Duncan was considered as settling finally the difficulties then pending, and infused new vigor and hope into the establishment.

The rooms were taken possession of by the Officers to whom they had been assigned. The Assayers depar-
-tment was arranged with a due regard for the con-
-venience and system that its importance seemed to re-
-quire, and the ample space allotted to it permitted suitable arrangements all conducive to the better, and if possible, better discharge of the important duties attaching to that office. The Coiner planned and, to a great extent, execu-
-ted

and perfected new machinery and better arrangements of the machine shop, milling machines and other machinery. The pillow blocks and hangers for a line of shafting were put up with much expense of time and labor, with the view of giving power to the machines which it was deemed desirable to place into the new rooms.

Mr Elmore was appointed Supt of the Mint, and opened his office July 9th 1858. Though he was aware of the proceedings that had been had in regard to the former Supts quarters, he thought that the decision of the Department was only applicable as far as the occupation of those rooms by a Messenger was concerned, and that he had a right as Supt to have a residence in the Mint building. Not finding the Operating Officers willing to consent to the demolition of the apparatus and machinery, planned and constructed with so much care, he ordered that no more work should be done on the machinery, then being put up and completed in these rooms, until this question of residence should be settled.

The Supt wrote to the Director under date of Dec. 20th 1858, setting forth his reasons why he should be accommodated with a residence in the building, and the Director, in response to his application, called for an expression of opinion from all the

Officers concerned in the proposed changes, which was furnished under date of January 25th 1859.

The Director at last determined to pay a visit to this Branch, and to examine into questions arising out of the Supt's application for a residence. It was supposed that he would conduct the investigation by enquiring into the merits of each Officer, and allow each one a hearing. But he seems to have made up his mind principally on the representations of the Supt and Treasurer.

Though the Director, in a general conversation with the Coiner & Melter & Refiner, touched upon the residence question, we did not deem our statements any thing more than a preliminary indication of the arguments we intended to present to his consideration, and were preparing ourselves to set forth our reasons against the occupation of the rooms as a residence, when we were informed, on the 18th at 3 O'clock P. M. by Mr Elmore that Mr Snowden would hear them meeting at 5 O'clock P. M. for home. She our conversation with Mr Elmore, we learned that the Director had decided the residence question in his favor.

On the day after the departure of the Director, the Supt. called the three officers into his office and read them the decision of the Director, dated on the 15th which gives him the rooms asked for,

(5)

and outhouses:

1st; The demolition of the Assay furnaces, now located in the best possible place in the building for the purpose, and constructed at great expense.

2nd; His transfer to rooms much more inconvenient, insufficiently lighted for his delicate work, and exceedingly hot and uncomfortable in the summer season.

3rd; The taking down of all the work done to the machinery in the rooms belonging to the Coining department.

4th; The privation of the Coining Department of rooms necessary for its convenient working.

5th; Additional and unnecessary outlays to rebuild the Assayers apparatus in other rooms, and to refit the rooms now assigned to the Supt as a residence.

6th The obstructing of the galleries necessary and desirable for the convenience of the work.

7th The use of this same gallery, where the Coiner's bullion must necessarily pass every working hour of the day, (at least a portion thereof) ~~the greater part~~) as an exclusively private passage to the Supt's residence, thereby forcing the Coiner, in rainy weather, to pass through the rain on a small unsheltered gallery, improperly constructed outside of the main gallery.

In view of the pecuniary and moral responsibility attaching to the officers of the working departments, and of the interests of the public service, which in our opinion, is mainly affected by the arrangements authorised by the Director, we would most respectfully and humbly beg of you to maintain the decision given in your letter to the Director, dated April 27th 1858, and the recommendations and principles expressed by that officer in his letter to the Department, dated April 26th 1858, as the most advantageous to the public service.

Being actuated by a sincere desire to promote harmony and good feeling, and apprehensive that the occupation of quarters, by the Melter & Refiner, and Coiner, might be deemed an obstacle to the assignment of the rooms in question to the legitimate use of the Mint service, the officers mentioned hold it their duty to their entire willingness to disregard the advantages and personal convenience arising to them from their residence in the mint building, and to notify their readiness to vacate the dwellings now occupied by them.

We also beg leave to express our sincere desire to submit cheerfully to your decision, whatever it may be, and to do our duty to our utmost capacity in promoting the interests of the Government and the public service.

We have furnished copies of this communication to Mr James Pollock Superintendent, Director of the Mint, and

(7.)

~~Mr~~ Wm. A. Elmore Esq: Sup't.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your O'bd Servant's

B. F. Taylor,

Coiner,

M. F. Bonzano

Mellus Reprinter

H. Millspaugh

Assayer

To,

Hon: Howell Cobb,

Secretary of Treasury,

Washington,

D. C.

United States

Copy

Branch Mint ~~of the United States,~~

New Orleans ~~Philadelphia~~ March 23, 1859

Sir,

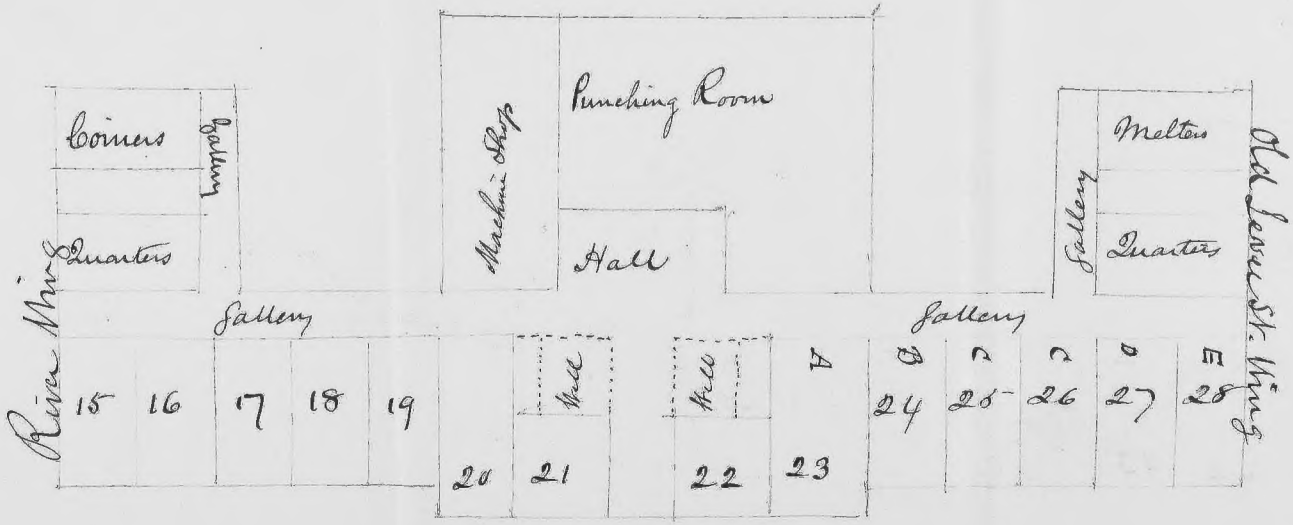
On yesterday, I rec^d. from the Coiner, Assayer, and Melter & Refiner, a copy of a communication addressed to you, dated 21st. inst, commenting on the decision of the Director of the Mint at Phil^a. on the subject of residences in this branch, made on the 15th. inst, and which decision was forwarded to you by the Director, on the 17th. inst.

The communication of the operative Officers, is so full of errors, and insinuations, and exhibits with all so much ill temper, ill feeling, and spite towards me, not to speak of the gross injustice done to the Director, that I propose on to morrow or the day after, to forward you through the Director of the Mint at Phil^a. (in my opinion the appropriate channel of communication on this subject) such an answer, as the communication requires.

Very Respt
Your Obt Servt.
Sign Wm. A. Elmore
Supt.

Hon Howell Cobb.
Sec Treasury
Washington City

Second Floor Branch Mint New Orleans



United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, March 23 1859

Sir

Indorsed, please find a communication addressed to the Sec of the Treasury, which you will please read and forward, only in your better judgment it should be deemed unnecessary —

I must confess that I am astonished, not so much that your decision should be appealed from but that so much hostility, should be manifested towards me. Tomorrow or the day after I will forward the letter spoken of in my letter to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Very respectfully
Wm E Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans March 25th 1859

Sir

Inclosed you will find the communication, I promised the Sec of the Treasury in my letter to him of 23d Inst. If you forwarded the letter to the Sec, of course you will forward this; but if you did not, I leave it to your better judgment to forward the inclosed letter or not, as I am exceedingly loth to annoy him even in my own vindication, unless it is necessary. From the communication of the operative officers, you can see what their temper is - that of the Coiner, I am sorry to say is particularly bad though I have done all I could, to make the new arrangements to them all as possible -

Very truly

Wm C Elmore

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS, 1859

Copies

of Letters of Supt

Br Mint New

Orleans dated

23d & 25th

March 1859

Appeal of

operation officers

from decision of

Director as to

occupation of

rooms. —

PLAN OF

N. O. MINT

Copy

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans
March 25, 1859

Sir,

I feel constrained to make some comments on the communication addressed to You, by the operative officers of this Branch on 21st inst, though I think it is hardly necessary to do so, but lest my silence be construed as an implied assent of the correctness of the statements therein made, I will so far as I deem necessary, point out, and correct these statements. The spirit with which the communication was conceived is fully exhibited in forwarding it directly to the Secretary of the Treasury without the intervention of the Superintendent, the latter being the recognized and official medium of communication between the Subordinate Officers of this Branch and the Secretary of the Treasury. This departure from the well understood and ordinary channel of communication ignores the existence of the Superintendent and justifies the belief that an intention to slight me was intended to be cast upon him. In my judgment nothing could excuse this course, but the con-

viction of these Officers, founded on some valid ground, that the Superintendent would not forward their communication to the Secretary of the Treasury. No such suggestion is made in their communication to you, nor in their note to me, furnishing me with a copy thereof. This conduct therefore, I consider as disrespectful to the Superintendent, and if passed over in silence is calculated to invite insubordination, and lessen the just authority of that officer.

I will not reopen the discussion of the question decided by the Director of the Mint at Phil^a. but content myself by correcting the misstatement in the communication to which this is a reply.

At the top of page three of their communication they say: "Not finding the operative Officers willing to consent to the taking down of the apparatus and machinery, plan, and constructed with so much care he ordered that no more work should be done towards the completion of the machinery then being put up in these rooms, until this question of residences should be settled".

The first part of this sentence implies, that the superintendent applied to the operative

Officers, to take down certain apparatus and machinery which they had caused to be put up. This is not the fact. I never applied to any of the operative officers to take down any apparatus or machinery, as here asserted; and upon their refusing to do so, they go on to assert as a fact, that I had ordered that no more work should be done towards the completion of the machinery then being put up in these rooms, until the question of vesting was settled. This is not so. In connection herewith I would observe that on the 23d February, after receiving a letter from the Director of the Mint at Philada., dated 22nd January, in which he mentioned that it would probably be necessary to visit this Branch, in order to settle by personal inspection the rooms, the question of vesting, I found upon looking into the rooms Nos. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, that the Coiner was bestowing labor and expence upon the rooms, which would not be necessary, in case the rooms were assigned to the Superintendent, and believing that the Coiner was doing this

for the purpose of influencing the decision of the question of residence, and knowing that it was more important that the machinery for the punching room should be put up, and that that room should be arranged for the regular business of the coming department, I addressed him the following letter; and this contains the only order I ever gave for the suspension of any work in these rooms.

On page 4 of the communication it is stated that the decision of the Director authorizes

"1st The demolition of the Assayer's furnaces now located in the best possible place in the building for the purpose and constructed at great expense."

The only remark I deem necessary to make to this is, that the actual amount paid for fitting up the rooms for the Assayer where he now is, cost about one hundred and forty dollars, as I learn from vouchers in the hands of the Treasurer of this Branch

"2nd The transfer to rooms much more

inconvenient, insufficiently lighted for his delicate work, and excessively hot and uncomfortable in Summer."

The rooms to which the Assayer is transferred are well adapted to the Assay department. They are in the same story of the building as the rooms originally occupied by him, and are as well lighted as those rooms were.

"3d. The taking down of the work done to the Machinery in the rooms belonging to the Coining department.

The money work in the rooms taken from the Coining Department, is to remove the hangers and fitting up some lockers in the Vault, all of which could be done in two days, by two laborers.

"4th. The privation of the Coining Department of rooms necessary for its convenient working."

The rooms taken from the Coiner, I do not believe to be necessary for his department, but there other rooms have been assigned him, by the decision of the Director of the rooms to occupy them, which certainly gives him ample accommodation.

"
5th Additional and unnecessary outlays to remove the Assayers apparatus in other rooms, and to fit the rooms now assigned to the Superintendent, as a residence".

I was the opinion of the Director, that a few hundred dollars would cover all the costs of the changes directed by him. - See his letter to You of 17th inst

"6th the obstructing of the galleries, necessary and desirable for the convenience of the Mint".

The galleries assigned to the Supt. are not necessary for the convenience of the Mint, and have never been used for that purpose.

"7th The use of the greater part of the same Gallery where the Coiners bullion must necessarily pass, every working hour of the day as an exclusively private passage to the Supt. residence, and thereby forcing the Coiners in rainy weather to pass through the rain on a small unsheltered gallery expressly constructed outside the main Gallery."

That portion of the gallery assigned to the Superintendent has never been used by the Coiners for the passage of his bullion

Indeed, no portion of the Gallery here referred to, is used by the Coiner, in transferring his bullion from one point to another. This Gallery according to the decision of the Director, is to be partitioned off as it was, during the time the Supt. quarters were occupied by Mr Breisen — and that was, in such a manner as effectually the Superintendents family from all parts of the building, except the portion occupied by him as a residence. At the present time this Gallery is Open, and one can pass and repass along this Gallery, into the rooms of the Coining department, and the Melting department of the Mint generally, without let or hindrance and the Coiners servants and members of his family do now pass along this Gallery.

The Coiner and Melter & Refiner signify their willingness to vacate their residences in the Mint Building. To this I have no objection on their part. It is their own affair, but I protest against being carried out with them. If they prefer to go, I do not perceive the justice of

of forcing me to accompany them. They are willing to sacrifice all the advantages derived from a residence in the buildings rather than see the Supt. occupy rooms in it — The feeling which prompts this suggestion is too apparent to require comment.

I respectfully submit that the decision of the Director should be maintained.

Very Respt. Yr. obt. Sr.

(Signed) Wm. A. Elmore

Supt.

Hon Howell Cobb
Sec Treasury
Washington City

March - 31, 1859

Profit & Loss

Dr.

1858			Dollars	cts
Dec.	31	To Balance per acct rendd to date	736264	
1859				
Mch	5	" Gold Bullion purchased for Coinage for the difference between the actual value of Gold Scraps used from the Coiner and the Melter & Refiner, Say $860.37 and the amount for which it was sold viz. $661.01	19936	
	31	" Silver Coinage for amt of 1/2 % Charge, for Silver Bullion deposited for Bars during 4th qr. 1858 and 1st. qr. 1859, paid into the Treasury of the U.S. to be placed to the Credit of the Inc. & Contingent Expence Fund of this Branch Mint	16893	
		For amt of Silver parted for the Mint 1st. qr. 1859, paid into the Treasury of the U.S. to be placed, as above	825	
	"	" Gold Coinage for amt of Parting Charges on Gold Bullion deposited for Coinage 1st. qr 1859, paid into the Treasury of the U.S. to be placed, as above	23605	
			997723	

Cr.

1859			Dollars	cts
March	31	By Bullion Deposit Profit & Loss for Charge of 1/2 % on Gross value of Silver bullion deposited to be cast into Bars, 4th Qr. 1858, transfered to this acct	24323	
	"	" Silver Bullion purchased for Coinage for Charge of 1/2 % on Gross value of Silver bullion deposited to be cast into Bars 1st. Qr. 1859	14470	
	"	" Silver Bullion purchased for Coinage for Silver parted for the benefit of the Mint, 1st. Qr. 1859	825	
	"	" Gold Bullion purchased for Coinage for Parting Charges on Gold Bullion deposited for Coinage, 1st. qr. 1859.	23605	
	"	" Balance to new acct	756200	
			997723	

U.S. Branch Mint, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, March 31st. 1859.
W W Elmore
Treasurer

March 17.th 9.

Sir,

I reached this City on the 10.th inst, having experienced some unavoidable delays in my journey hither.

I have delivered the question which you requested me to decide; and as a Convenient mode of Communicating my views upon the subject I herewith enclose a Copy of my letter of the 15.th inst to the Superintendent.

I find there is ample room in the building to furnish quarters for the Superintendent without interfering with the public business, or with the residences of the Melter and Refiner and Coiner.

I also enclose a Communication from the Supt. on the subject of the manner of defraying the expenses of

arranging the rooms. The re-arrangement will cost a few hundred dollars; and it would seem proper, as suggested by Mr. Elmore, that so much of the balance remaining unexpended, of the repair fund, ~~heretofore~~ as may be necessary, should be applied to that object. I concur with him in this suggestion; but if the Department has any objection to that plan, the small expense to be incurred may be defrayed from the ordinary funds of the Branch Mint.

I expect to leave this City tomorrow, or the next day, to return to Phila.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
Samuel Roseman.
Director of the Mint.

Hon. Howell Cobb.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City.

March 15. 9.

Sir,

In accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury I have examined the Mint building with a view to the arrangement of the rooms for the public service, and, so far as may be expedient and convenient, for the residence of such of the officers of the branch mint as have been accustomed to occupy apartments in the mint.

Heretofore (that is to say before the recent repairs were made,) three officers had their residences in the building, namely, the Superintendent; the Melter and Refiner; and the Coiner. The two last named officers occupy the residences heretofore assigned them.

A portion of the quarters heretofore occupied by the Superintendent have been

temporarily used and are now in the possession of the Assayer. These rooms I am of opinion should be restored to the Superintendent, it being in my judgment entirely practicable and consistent with the public service to assign apartments to that officer for a residence in the Mint. To accomplish this object the following arrangements will be made.

1. The rooms on the first floor numbered 13 & 14; as also nos. 15, 16, 17. and 18, on the 2nd. floor will be occupied by the Superintendent.

2. He will also have the use of the kitchen, & servants rooms in the basement, together with the yards and ~~[illegible]~~ and galleries as heretofore used and occupied by the Superintendent.

3. The Assayer will use the rooms on the 2nd. floor, numbered 19. 20. and 21; these rooms will be fitted up and arranged for the use of the Assay Department

as soon as practicable. If the Assayer is of opinion that it would be useful or convenient to open a passage, and make a door, between Nos. 20. and 21. I recommend that it be done.

4. The rooms, on the 2nd floor, numbered 22, 23 and 24, or either of them, may be used by the Coiner if he considers their occupancy, or either of them, advantageous to his Department. In that event, these rooms, now in the temporary ~~and partial~~ possession of the Melter and Refiner will be vacated by that Officer.

I beg to add that I entertain towards all the Officers of the branch Mint, the kindest regards, and sincere ~~and~~ respect; and I earnestly hope that the arrangements I have indicated will be carried into effect in the spirit of harmony and mutual kindness, having a due regard to economy and the advancement of the public service.

I am very respectfully
Your obt. servant,
James Pope Snowden
Director of the Mint

Wm. H. Elmore
Supt. Branch Mint N.O.

Decision of the
question of
arrangement of
Rooms Residence
at the Branch Mint
New Orleans—

New March 30. 1837

Mint of the United States.

Copy

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, March 17th 1859

Sir

I am in the receipt of your communication of 15th Inst, by which a rearrangement of some of the rooms in the Mint building is made, & the Superintendent & Coiner, are assigned to him for a residence. This rearrangement of the rooms will involve some expense, which I propose be met, by applying the unexpended balance on hand from the appropriation for "the repairs upon the Branch Mint at New Orleans," which amount I learn from the report of Maj Bonham, made to the Sec of the Treasury on 30th Sept last amounts to the sum of Six thousand seven hundred & one 35/100 Dollars. This sum I would respectfully suggest might be placed to the credit of the Treasurer of this

Branch Mint, subject to the disbursement of the Superintendent for such expenses, as in his judgment may be necessarily incurred in carrying out the views expressed in your communication. His mode of disbursement it is believed would be more convenient, judicious & economical than any other. Will you be pleased to consider this subject, & if you agree with me in opinion, in reference to it, would it be asking too much of you, to request, that you inclose this letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, with such remarks as you may consider appropriate.

I am with great respect
yours very sincerely
Wm. L. Elmore
Supt

Hon James R. Snowden
Director Mint Phila

New Orleans.

Dr. **Silver Purchase Profit & Loss.** Cr.

1859			Dollars	cts	1858			Dollars	cts
March	5	To Silver Bullion purch^d for Coinage, for difference between the actual value of Silver Sweep rec'd from the Melter & Refiner and the Coiner, say $3263.96 & the amt for which it was sold, viz. " 2143.37	1120	59	Decr 31	By	Balance per acct rend to date	33161	23
	31	" Silver Purchases, for difference between the cost price and the intrinsic value of Silver bullion p^d for Coinage during 1st Qr. of 1859.	9965	71	1859 Mch	"	" Silver Coinage for the enhanced nominal value of 476.000. Ounces of Silver Coins rec'd from the Coiner, during the 1st Qr. of 1859.	41109	09
	"	" Gold Coinage for amount of Premium, 4%, on Silver parted for benefit of depositors, during the 1st Qr. of 1859.	399	82					
	"	" Balance to new Acct	62784	20					
			74270	32				74270	32

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office March 31st 1859.
A. J. Guiros
Treasurer.

Bullion Deposit Profit & Loss

Dr. Cr.

1859.		Dollars	cts.	1858		Dollars	cts.
March 31	To Profit & Loss for Charge of ½% on the gross value of Silver Bullion deposited to be cast into Bars, during the 4th Qr 1858, transfered to Profit & Loss Acct	243	23	Dec.r 31	By Balance per acct rend this date	227	51
" "	Balance to new acct	232	99	1859 March " "	Gold Bullion purchased for Coinage for amount of Coinage Charge of ½% on the Gross value of Gold bullion deposited for Coinage, and Silver parted therefrom, for benefit of Depositors, 1st Qr. 1859	291	71
		256	22			256	22

U.S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office March 31st. 1859.
S. J. Guirard
Treasurer.

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF March 1859.

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting. Ounces.	Dec.	Standard Weight. Ounces.	Dec.	Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Value after Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold.										
Brazilian Coins &c	25	58	26	034	484	35	481	93		
Columbian Doubloons &c	204	62	196	435	3.654	60	3.625	98		
English Coins	6	80	6	739	125	38	124	75		
German Coins	48	71	48	385	900	19	895	69		
					5,164	52				
Mexican Bullion	2.238	02	47	735	888	09	835	30		
Unknown Bullion	86	93	22	861	425	33	421	32		
					1313	42				
U. S. Bullion, Cal.a	461	82	458	612	8.532	31	8.466	35		
									15.010	25
Silver										
French Coins &c	574	15	569	84	663	08	663	08		
Mexican Dollars &c *	2.265	80	2.255	23	2.624	27	2.624	27		
Spanish Coins &c *	967	80	962	21	1.119	66	1.119	66		
Columbian Silver	204	62	20	75	24	15	24	15		
Mexican Bullion	217.827	52	237.550	83	276.422	79	275.338	86		
Unknown Bullion	783	08	670	58	780	30	780	30		
U. S. Coins &c	1.602	20	1.597	61	1.859	04	1.859	04		
					283,493	29				
U. S. Bullion, Cal.a	461	82	37	49	43	63	43	63		
									283.536	92
									298.547	17

* $1.110\frac{00}{100}$ in Change

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold.					
Double Eagles	1.750	35000	00		
				35.000	00
Silver					
Half Dollars	204.000	102.000	00		
Quarter Dollars	120.000	30.000	00		
Dimes	150.000	15.000	00		
Half Dimes	560.000	28.000	00		
				175.000	00
Silver Bars				180.449	46
				390.449	46

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, March 31st 1859.
[illegible]
Treasurer.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia April 2. 1859.

Sir.

I forwarded to Your address yesterday, per Adams Express Co. (freight paid,) two hundred and fifteen dollars, in the new cent coin, for the Treasurer of Your branch Mint.

Very Respectfully,
J. R. Snowden.
Director of the Mint.

William A. Elmore Esq.
Superintendent Br. Mint.
New Orleans.
La.

To
Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Forwarding $215 in
New Cents. –

April 2. 1859. –

Correspondence
Branch Mints,

April – 1859.

April 1. 9.

Sir,

I transmit the enclosed communication — dated the 23d. & 25th. ult. — in compliance with the request of the writer. It seems proper, as a matter of justice to Mr. Elmore, that you should be put in possession of his report to me of the 8th. of Feb. last. This I accordingly also enclose.

The Communication addressed to you by the Coiner, the Miller & Refiner, and Assayer, at New Orleans, does not seem to require any comment from me, unless you desire it, or wish to review the decision which I made, under your instructions.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden.
Director of the Mint

Hon.
Howell Cobb.
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City.

To Sec Treasury

April 1859

Enclosing letters from Supt Br Mint New Orleans 23 & 25th March in relation to appeal of operative officers from decision of Director as to arrangement of rooms.—

April 1, 1859.—

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, April 4th 1859

Sir

Herewith please find statement of Deposits Coinage, Coins issued for assay, and expenditures for the first quarter of 1859.

I also send by to day's mail one box of assay coins.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore

Supt

Hon

James R. Snowden

Director Mint

Philadelphia

Dear Sir
Wm A Elmore Esq

Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Assay Coins & Reports
March

April 11, 1839

Mint of the United States.
Philad.a April 11, 1859.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst. with the enclosures stated, also, a package containing the Assay, Coins of your branch Mint for the month of March last.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Wm A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans,
La.

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, April 9th 1859

Sir

I send herewith, statements of Profit & Loss, Silver Purchase Profit & Loss, and Bullion Deposit Profit & Loss, for the First Quarter of 1859, together with the statement of the condition of this Branch at the close of the month ending on 31st Inst. Very respectfully

Wm. C. Elmore

Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Philadelphia

From
Supt Br. Mint
New Orleans
La

Profit & Loss Statements
1st Q. 1869

April 15. 1869

Treasury Department
April 4. 1859.

Sir

Your account for expenses incurred in going to visit the Branch Mint at N. Orleans has been approved by the Secretary. As I cannot draw on the Ass. Treasurer at Philada I send a check for the amount $100.89 on the Ass. Treasurer at N. York, which I presume you can readily negotiate.

I am very Resp.

S. H. M. Ecary Dc.

Jas. Pross Snowden Esq
Director of the Mint
Philada.

Hon
S. M McKean Esq
D.C Treasury Dept.

Enclosing check on
N.Y. for $192.87
in payment of my
Bill Expenses
while acting Br
Mint New Orleans

April 8, 1859.

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, April 16th 1859

Sir

The Coiner requests me to order for his Department, Ten Heads of Half Dollar dies, also five Heads of Half Dimes.

Very respectfully

Wm. A. Elmore

Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Philadelphia

From,

Wm. A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Requisition
for Dies. —

order in hands
of Mr Longacre
April 25 —

April 25. 1839 —

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, April 11th 1859

Sir

Inclosed you will please find, the usual statement of the condition of this Institution, for the week ending 9th Inst —

I also, have to acknowledge the receipt per Adams & Co of the Two hundred fifteen dollars in the new cent coin, which has been handed over to the Treasurer of this Branch — Very respectfully

Wm. C. Elmore

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Philadelphia

Transfer A Elman E

Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Ack receipt
of $215 in cents

April 18, 1859

New Orleans 21. April 1859

James Ross Snowden Esqr.

Director U S Mint

Philadelphia

My Dear Sir.

In this morning's True Delta, I find your reply to an application from the Superintendant in San Francisco as follows:

" As the facts stated by you indicate the propriety of the Coinage of
" Silver Dollars at your Branch of the Mint, I have caused 4 pr.
" of Dies of that denomination to be prepared and forwarded to you
" p Express - A weight for the Adjustment of the Coin (from which others
" can be made) will be found in the Box containing the Dies"

Pray let me know the weight you authorise for the Dollar - I do not see in the law relative to our Silver Coin any thing about a Silver Dollar the weight of which under the previous laws was 412 1/2 grains - Is the weight to be that or double the 50 Cent piece say 384 grains? If the old weight such Dollars may be made to circulate gradually in China as well as Mexican Dollars of the same fineness and weight - if light they can only serve for home purposes as our small silver. You are aware that we are large Receivers here of Silver Bars & Cakes from the Mines of Zacatecas & Real de Catorce of the fineness of 998 - 998-5, as you may have seen from the Reports of the Branch Mint, and with judicious management this place would soon become the Recipient of all the Silver Mines of North Mexico in which I have a deep interest & hence my anxiety that any facility afforded to any one of our Branch Mints should be extended to this -

I am very respectfully

Your obt Servt

Edmd Forstall

From & To

Ed. L. Forstall Esq

New Orleans

La

Coinage of Silver dollars at Pr Mint New Orleans

James Ross Snowden Esqr

Director U.S. Mint

Philadelphia

May 4, 1859

May 3. 9.

My Dear Sir

I have received your letter of the 21st ult.

During my recent visit to the Branch Mint in your city I gave directions that the Trade dollar might be coined if desired by any depositor, and for that purpose I supplied to the institution a sufficient number of working dies.

In regard to the weight of the Trade dollar it is only necessary to call your attention to the fact that the act of Feb. 21, 1853 does not apply to the dollar, but only to the half dollar, and lower denominations; hence, whilst the weight of the half dollars is 384 grains that of the whole dollar is 412½ grains. Besides, the lower denominations are coined from Silver bullion purchased for that purpose, but any

owner of silver bullion may deposit such bullion for silver dollars. If therefore you desire it, you can deposit your bullion at the branch mint, and have returns in silver dollars of the standard weight fixed by the 9th section of the act of the 18th January 1837...

I am glad to notice the increasing trade between your City and the silver producing regions of Mexico, and that you receive large amounts of silver bars and cakes of high fineness from the mines of Zacatecas and Real de Catorce, and I will be happy to afford every facility in my power to the branch mint in your City to transact the business which may be required of it.

I am with great regard,
Yours very truly
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint

E. J. Forstall Esq
New Orleans
La.

Statement of the condition of the New Orleans Branch Mint at the close of the week ending 23d April 1859.

	Dollars	Cts
Coinage acct Dr.		
Balance per last Statement	255.119	46
Received in Silver Coins	30.000	00
Total means for the week Cr $ 29.947.71 / S $ 255.171.75	285.119	46
Coinage acct Cr.		
Gold paid during the week	1.261	48
Silver Coins received for Assay	6	00
Balance Cr $ 28.686.23 / S $ 255.165.75	283.851	98
	285.119	46
Bullion acct Dr.		
Amount due to Depositors Cr $ 8.300.00 / S $ 71.000.00	79.300	00
Do " " U. S. for Bullion Fund	489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion Acct	568.567	46
Deduct Balance, as above	283.851	98
Difference being Bullion in process of Coinage Cr $ 47.600.00 / S $ 237.115.48	284.715	48

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, April 23d 1859.

A. J. Guiros
Treasurer.

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans April 20th 1839

Sir

In March we made a requisition on the Secretary of the Treasury for the sum of $3000. for our Contingent & Incidental Expenses for that Month. In answer thereto, he informed us, that there was only $1559. to the credit of that account and sent us a warrant for that amount. This caused us, as you may suppose great surprise, for according to our books, we had to the credit of our Contingent & Incidental account about $12.000. The Treasurer of the Branch then made out a detailed statements of our Incidental account for several days back, up to the first of this month; according to which, we had to the credit of that account on that day $11.411.30 cts. These statements were forwarded to the Department, & on 15th Inst we were answered, that the statements were correct, but that, on 4th January 1838, the Department had paid Adams & Co's $5000. for transporting $1.000.000 in silver from this place to Philadelphia & $200.000 to St Louis, and on 19th June 1837, they had paid them $5000. for transporting $1.000.000 in silver bullion from this place to Phila, making $11.000 all of which, had been taken out of

our Contingent & Incidental account, and strange to say, no notice had ever been given us, of the payment. The error is so apparent, that I feel satisfied, that as soon as the subject is brought to the notice of the Secretary of the Treasury, that it will be corrected. But, I wish to make sure of it, I therefore address you this communication, asking your active intercession in behalf of this Branch, for as you may readily imagine, we are very much embarrassed for the want of funds to meet our ordinary current expenses.

It is apparent to my mind, that the cost of transporting the silver, and silver bullion charged to our Cont & Inc Expense account, can not be considered as coming within the category of Cont & Inc Expenses of this Branch. This silver & silver bullion was carried from this Branch, not for its advantage but for the convenience of the public service, or for that of the Parent Mint. Your views on this subject will be found in your respective letters of Dec 5th 1853, Oct 12th 1854, & Nov 28th 1853- addressed to the then Supt of this Branch to which letter, I beg to refer you. As I have always stated the taking of this $11.000 has greatly embarrassed us- It would not have been so serious, perhaps, had we been

apprised of it, in time for our annual estimate, because then, we could have increased our estimate to that extent.

I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury upon the subject, urging that these sums should have been paid out of the profits of Silver Coinage, and asking him to restore the amount to our Coin & Incidental Expense account.

Very respectfully

Wm. E. Elsmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Philadelphia

Tom

Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
Fa

May 1859

Payment of freight $11,000
on transportation of Bullion
out of Int. & Cont. Expense
Appro. — Desires me
to have same restored
to ordinary Fund

May 3, 1859

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, May 27th 1859

Sir

Will you please send us your account current with this Branch, with the vouchers for payments charged therein - and inform me of the different amounts appropriated for this establishment for the fiscal year ending 30th June 1860.

Very respectfully

Wm. C. Elmore

Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Phila

Lumb/s
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans
La

Ofc Current requested
Rendered. —
appropriations
1860. —

June 2. 1859

June 1859

June 2. 59.

Sir:

I have received your letter of the 27th ult:

Enclosed please find statement of account current with the Treasurer of your branch Mint and vouchers for the items charged therein. The account exhibits a balance of $25.22, due your Treasurer.

The appropriation for the support of your institution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, is as follows:

For Salaries of Officers & Clerks	$18,800
For Wages of Workmen	24,000
For Incidental & Contingent Expenses, including Wastage	$26,500
	$78,800

Very Respectfully,

James Pollock Snowden.
Director of the Mint

Wm. A. Elmore Esqr
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans

Cr. The Treasurer of the Branch Mint New Orleans

		Dollars Cts
1858 April 22	By Balance as per Settlement	609 84
1859 Feb 12	By proceeds [illegible] 1858: sold $650	
	777.40	1427 9[illegible]
		2,0[illegible]7 7[illegible]

[illegible]

Mint of the [illegible] States
Philadelphia, [illegible]
James Rob Rowden.
Director

in account with the Director of the Mint Dr.

1858			Dollars cents
April 28	To Amount paid H. M. Mecrick	Voucher No. 1	113 00
Aug 5	To Amount paid Moss Phillips	" " 2	153 14
1859 Feb 14	To amount paid Moss Phillips	" " 3	70 50
Feb 24	To amount paid Moss Phillips	" " 4	243 38
April 1	To Cent coins forwarded per Adams Express		215 00
May 2	To Amount paid Wm Sellers & Co.	" " 5	1,016 50
" 28	To amount paid Moss Phillips	" " 6	201 00
June 2	Balance		28 22
			2,037 74

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, May 30th 1859

Sir

Inclosed please find the usual statement for the week ending 28th Inst.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 17th Inst, casting upon me, to furnish, as soon after 30th proximo as convenient, a detailed statement of the operations of this Institution, for the year ending on that day.

Yours very respectfully

Wm. A. Elmore

Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Philadelphia

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF May 1859

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting. Ounces.	Dec.	Standard Weight. Ounces.	Dec.	Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Value after Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold										
Mexican Bullion	2.756	35	12	250	227	90	168	28		
Unknown Do.	214	03	29	513	549	08	541	34		
U. States Do. Cal.a	912	80	901	529	16.772	64	16.646	10		
									17.549	62
Silver										
Mexican Coins r.c *	402	380	401	630	467	351	467	351		
Spanish Coins r.c *	89	275	88	623	103	125	103	125		
Mexican Bullion	148.726	05	162.490	47	189.079	82	188.221	26		
Unknown Do	868	13	771	06	897	24	897	24		
U. States Coins r.c	1.032	35	1.027	75	1.195	93	1.195	93		
Do. Bullion, Cal.a	843	03	89	11	103	68	103	68		
									196.981	43
									214.531	05

* $1140.00/100 in Change.

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold					
None Delivered					
Silver					
Half Dollars	200000	100000			
Bars.		58.545	37		
				158.545	37
				158.545	37

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, May 31st 1859.

J. L. Smith
Treasurer.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, May 31st 1859

Sir

I believe desire me to order four obverse dies for double Eagle - and six obverse dies for dollars.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Philadelphia

Order in hands of Engraver —
June 6. 1859

Tom
Supt

Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Requisition

for Dies

Jan 6, 1859 —

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans June 1st 1859

Sir

I rec'd from the Sec of the Treasury some time since, a printed circular addressed to various public officers, & among others to Superintendents of Branch Mints bearing date 18 Dec 1854, and referring to the 11 Sec of the act of August 6th 1846 entitled "an act to provide for the better organization of the Treasury," accompanied by a letter directing my attention to the instructions contained in said circular.

The construction, I gave to this circular was, that at the end of every month, I was required to examine the money in the possession of the Treasurer of this Branch, (as well as the money in the possession of the assistant Treasurer) and make report to the Department. Will you do me the favor to say, whether I am right in this construction of the circular, and if I am, if it would not be too much trouble, I would be very much indebted to you, if you would forward me a copy of the form in which your report is made to the Department.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From & To
Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Monthly Count
& Examination. –
How made. –

June 9. 1859 –

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia June 9, 1859.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 1st inst.

You have correctly construed the character of the monthly examination You are required to make by the act cited in your letter, and Sec. 5. of the General regulations for the Mint. see mint pamphlet page 18. a copy of which I send You by mail.

The examination in question should be made at the close of business on the last day of each month, at which time You will make a careful count of the monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, and in the office of the Assistant Treasurer of the U. S. and ascertain the correspondence of the same to the balances stated upon the books of account in the offices just referred to. In reporting the results of the count through me to the Secretary of the Treasury. You will state the amount of coin You find on hand and whether the same agrees with the balance as exhibited by the account books on that day.

Regulation 6. mint pamphlet page 19.

requires that at the end of each quarter, and oftener if necessary, an examination shall also be made of the general condition of your institution and the manner in which the operations and business thereof shall have been conducted. The results of this examination may be included in the report ~~in the report~~ of the count of monies in the Treasury of your branch Mint.

Your report of the results of the count in the office of the Treasurer of the Mint, and in that of the Assistant Treasurer of the U. S. must be made on separate sheets of paper.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director
per H. R. Linderman
Directors Clerk E.

Wm. A. Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint &
New Orleans,
La.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia June 11. 1857.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th. inst. with the enclosures stated. also, a package containing the coins reserved for the annual assay during the month of May last.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden.
Director of the Mint.

Wm. A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.
La.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, June 4th 1859

Sir

Inclosed please find statements of deposits Coinage, and Coins reserved for assay, for the month of may just expired.

I also transmit by to days mail one box of assay Coins

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Philadelphia

From Supt
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Assay Coins & Reports
May 1859

June 11, 1859

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, June 6th 1859

Sir

Indosed please find, the usual statement of the condition of this Institution for the week ending 4th Inst.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From Supt. Branch Mint
New Orleans.

June 13/59.

Statement for week ending June 4th.

Correspondence
Branch Mints,

June - 1859.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia June 10, 1859.

Sir,

I send to your address to-day, per Adams Express Co., a box containing four obverse double Eagle, & 6 silver dollars, dies, filling your requisition of the 31st ult.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden.
Director of the Mint.

Wm A. Elmore Esq.
Supt Pr Mint.
New Orleans.
La.

To
Supt R Mint
New Orleans
La

Forwarding dies
per Express

June 10, 1889 -

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, June 15th 1859

Sir

Sir Coiner desires me to order half dozen dies, (reverse) for Double Eagles.

Very truly

Wm A Elmore

Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Phila

Order placed in the hands of Mr Longacre.

From
Wm A. Elmore Esq
Supt Br. Mint
New Orleans
La

Requisition for 6 reverse
double Eagle dies

June 21. 1859

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, June 20th 1859

Sir

Inclosed please find the usual statement of the condition of this Institution for the week ending 18th Inst

Very respectfully

Wm L Glenn

Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Phila

Inv.
Supt. New Orleans

Weekly Statement

Jan 28. 1857

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint at New Orleans at the close of the week ending June 18. 1859.

	Dollars	cts
Coinage acct Dr.		
Balance per last Statement	278.992	34
Received in Silver Coins	50.000	00
Total means for the week Cs $ 22.826.42 S $ 306.165.92	328.992	34
Coinage acct Cr.		
Paid during the week Cs $ 5.253.63 S $ 63.926.48	69.180	11
Silver Coins reserved for assay	10	00
Balance Cs $ 17.572.79 S $ 242.229.44	259.802	23
	328.992	34
Bullion acct Dr		
Due to Depositors Cs $ 32.778.21 S $ 181.000.00	213.778	21
Amt of U. S. Bullion Fund	489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion Account	703.045	67
Deduct Balance, as above	259.802	23
Difference being bullion in process of Coinage Cs $ 77.000 S $ 366.243.44	443.243	44

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, June 18. 1859.

A. J. Trivo
Treasurer

June 28th 89.

Sir,

I send you to-day per Adams Express Co. a box containing six reverse double eagle dies.

I have contracted in this City for the acids that may be required by the Mint and branches (except San Francisco) for one year from the 1st proximo. You will please therefore send your orders for the article in question through me.

Very Respectfully,
James Rob Snowden
Director of the Mint
per H. R. Linderman
Priestley Clerk

Jr. A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Pres. Mint
New Orleans.

To
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Dies forwarded

orders for acid
to be sent through
me

Jan 28. 1859

June 30, 1859.

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF June 1859

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting. Ounces.	Dec.	Standard Weight. Ounces.	Dec.	Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Value after Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold										
Columbian Doubloons	1.661	03	1.602	024	29.805	10	29.572	01		
Mexican Do.	17	36	16	800	312	56	311	00		
Mexican Bullion	2.435	90	4	661	86	72	35	62		
Unknown Do.	9	53	6	152	114	45	113	68		
U. S. Bullion, Cal.a	107	13	106	158	1.975	03	1.960	60		
									32.293	86
Silver										
Mexican Coins x	1.468	55	1.462	83	1.702	20	1.702	20		
Spanish Coins x	2.186	85	2.181	93	2.538	97	2.538	97		
Columbian Bullion	1.661	03	173	84	202	29	202	29		
Mexican Bullion	127.014	30	137.545	39	160.052	82	159.102	03		
Unknown Bullion	378	08	367	37	427	48	427	48		
U. S. Coins	3.306	00	3.293	23	3.832	15	3.832	15		
U. S. Bullion, Cal.a	89	99	9	09	10	58	10	58		
									168.766	49
									201.060	35

x $2.740. In Change.

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold					
Double Eagles	3.250	65.000	–		
				65.000	00
Silver					
Dollars	200.000	200000	–		
				200.000	00
				265.000	00

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, June 30. 1859.
A. J. Guirot
Treasurer.

June 1859

Branch Mint

New Orleans

June 1859

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, July 1st 1859

Sir

Inclosed please find the yearly statements required in your letter of May 17th with the usual quarterly returns, and the statements of Deposits Coinage, and Coins prepared for apay during June 1859.

I send by mail one box of apay Coins.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore

Supt

Hon J Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Phila

From & To
Supt Pr Mint
New Orleans
L.R.

2 Letters to Supt.

1. Ack: Receipt
Assay Coms & Reports

2. In relation to
form of report of
Monthly Examination

July 11. 1859 —

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia Feby 9. 1857.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 8th instant enclosing a report of the monthly examination made at your institution on the day previous which has been forwarded to the Department.

It is desirable that the report of the monthly examination at your branch Mint should correspond in form as near as practicable to that adopted at the principal Mint.

The form we use is as follows:

"The usual monthly count and examination made at the Mint at the close of business to-day exhibited the following balances in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint viz:

In Gold coins $
In Silver coins
In Cent coins
In Ordinary Hand
Total $

corresponding with the balance as stated upon his book of account.

An examination into the condition of

the mint generally gave satisfactory evidence that the business of the institution is conducted with care and fidelity.

The examination in question does not contemplate the ascertainment of the [illegible] bullion in course of manufacture and [illegible] when added to the coin on hand, with the balance shown by the books of age to be due the [illegible], but the correspondence of the coin on hand to the amount stated upon the Treasurers [illegible] sheet for the day should be ascertained and certified in your report.

Yours Respectfully,
[illegible]
Director of the Mint.

Wm. A. Elmore Esq.
Supt. Pro Mint.
New Orleans.
La.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia July 9. 1857.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst with the enclosures stated and also a package containing the assay coin of your bank Mint for the month of June.

For the very prompt and satisfactory manner in which you have furnished the settlement required in my letter of the 17th of May last, you will please accept my thanks.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obt Servt
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Wm. H. Elmore Esq
Supt U.S. Mint,
New Orleans,
La.

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans, July 1st 1859

Sir

I hereunto hand you, to be forwarded to the Department the statement required under the act of August 5th 1840, and the instructions of Dec 18. 1854 of the amount of money &c, in the hands of the Treasurer of this Branch on 30th June just expired. Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore

Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Phila

From To

~~The Sec Treasury~~

Supt at New Orleans

July 1859

Monthly Examination

July 9. 1859

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia July 8, 1859.

Sir,

In transmitting the report of the monthly examination, on 30th ult., at the Branch Mint, New Orleans, I have to remark that the same is not correct in form. The attention of the Superintendent will be called to the subject and the proper form of report indicated.

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Your faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Hon. Howell Cobb,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

To Sec Treasury

Transmitting Report
from Pr Mint
New Orleans

July 8. 1889

U. S. Branch Mint,

New Orleans, July 9th 1859

Sir

Inclosed please find, statement of the condition of this Branch during the quarter, ending 30th June ult.

I have to acknowledge the receipt - per Adams Express Co. - of a box containing six reverse double Eagle dies.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon
James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From
Supt Br Mint
~~[illegible]~~
New Orleans
La

Ack receipt
of Die

July 15, 1839.

July 30, 1859

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF July 1859

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting. Ounces.	Dec.	Standard Weight. Ounces.	Dec.	Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Value after Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold										
Brazilian Coins	43	54	44	072	819	94	815	84		
Mexican Bullion	1.799	45	83	078	1.545	64	1.501	21		
U. S. Bullion, Cal.ª	80	26	77	907	1.449	43	1.438	61		
									3.815	01
Silver										
Mexican Coins ✓	532	35	530	52	617	33	617	33		
Spanish Do. ✓	1.644	15	1.620	29	1.885	43	1.885	43		
Mexican Bullion	125.628	40	136.744	93	159.121	37	158.535	91		
Unknown Do	583	50	539	07	627	28	627	28		
U. S. Coins	4.797	40	4.766	34	5.546	29	5.546	29		
U. S. Bullion, Cal.ª	70	43	7	78	9	05	9	05		
									167.806	75
✓ $2.135 00/100 in change.										
									171.621	76

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold					
Double Eagles	750	15000	–		
				15000	00
Silver					
Dollars	110.000	110.000	–		
Half Dollars	200.000	100.000	–		
				210000	00
				225.000	00

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, July 30th. 1859
A. J. Guirard
Treasurer.

Deposits & Coinage

July 1889

U. S. Branch Mint,

New Orleans August 1st 1857

Sir

Inclosed please find the usual monthly count & examination of the money in the hands of the Assayer of this Branch, which you will forward to the Hon. the Sec'y of the Treasury

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore

Supt

Hon J Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Phila

From & To
Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Enclosing Report
Monthly count
and Examination
acknowledged.

Aug 8. 1859.

Mint of the United States.
Philad.a August 8. 1857.

Sir,

I transmit herewith a report from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint New Orleans, exhibiting the results of the usual monthly count and examination of that institution on the 30th ult.o

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful servant.
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint
per A. R. Linderman

Hon. Howell Cobb.
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

U. S. Branch Mint,

New Orleans, August 3d 1859

Sir

Herewith please find statements of Deposits & Coinage, and coins reserved for Assay during the month of July 1859.

I transmit by today's mail one box of assay coins

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

Frmd Lg
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Assay coins &
Monthly Statement
&

Aug 10. 1889.

Aug 10, 59

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d inst with the enclosures stated, also, a package containing the assay coins of your branch mint for the month of July last.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director
per H. R. Linderman

Wm A. Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans August 3d 1859

Sir

On the 10th July, I granted leave of absence for sixty days, to H Millspaugh Esqr, Assayer, and appointed at the request of Mr M., Edward B Maxwell acting Assayer, which fact, I communicate to you, for your approbation, & in conformity with the "General regulations for the Mint, & its Branches.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon Howell Cobb
Sec Treasury
Washington City

Lmw

Wm A. Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

August 1869

Leave of absence granted
to Mr Millspaugh Assayer
& Mr Maunsell appointed
to act in his place

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, August 3d 1857

Sir

Please forward to the Hon the Sec of the Treasury the inclosed letter informing him that I have granted leave of absence to the Assayer for the period of sixty days that the Assayer has been appointed acting Assayer in the absence of the Assayer.

Very respectfully
Wm. A. Elmore
Supt

Hon J. Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

Treasury Dep
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Leave of absence
to the Assayer
& Appointment
of E. B. Maunsell
to Act in his
place

Aug 10, 1859

Copy

N. O. Branch Mint
New Orleans aug 3, 1859

Sir,

On the 10th. of July, I granted leave of absence for sixty days, to A. Millspaugh Esq. Assayer, and appointed at the request of Mr M, Edward B. Mannan acting Assayer, which fact, I communicate to you, for your approbation, and in conformity with the "general regulations for the Mint and its Branches"

Very Respectfully,
(Signed) Wm A. Elmore
Supt

Hon Howell Cobb
Sec Treasury
Washington

Mint of the United States.
Phil^a. August 10. 1857.

Sir.

I am in the receipt of your letter of the 3^d. inst. enclosing a communication for the Secretary of the Treasury, advising that Officer of the leave of absence granted to the Assayer, and the appointment of Mr Edward B. Mannsell, to act in his place, during his absence.

The 4th. sec. of the general Mint Case see Mint pamphlet, page 7, requires that the appointee in such cases shall be "some person attached to the Mint". As the fact of Mr Mannsell's being attached to the Mint is not stated in your communication, I would be glad to be advised on this point before transmitting the same to the Department.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director.
per H. R. Linderman

Wm A. Elmore Esq.
Supt Br. Mint,
New Orleans,
La.

NEW ORLEANS, 1859

August 5. 57.

Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st inst. enclosing a report of the usual monthly count and examination of your institution on the 30th ult. which has been transmitted to the Department.

Very Respectfully,
James Ross Snowden
Director
per H. R. Linderman

Wm. A. Elmore Esq.
Supt Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

850 50
42.500

850 5
42.50

800 50
40 000

2500

2500 2500 $25 25

25000

850
7 1/4
5850
212
60.62

60

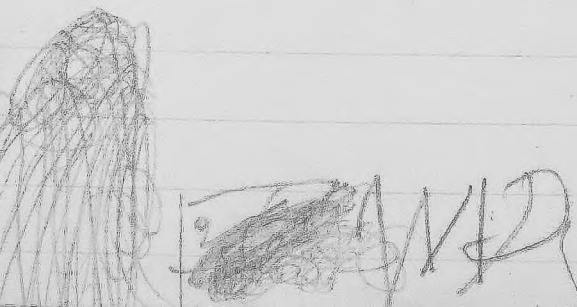
150 850
10) 150
15.

16.00

7 1/4
1 3/4
9.

$75

85
85
50
42.500
8



To
Sec Treasury

Transmitting Report
from Br Mint New
Orleans. - Monthly count
& examination July 1859,

Aug 8. 1859. -

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia

18

Branch Mint New Orleans
Aug 15th 1859.

Dear Sir,

Through Adams & Co's Express I received, some time ago, your counting machine. I have applied to it the recent improvements, and now return it herewith, hoping that its performance may prove satisfactory.

I send also a pipette, with a contrivance for regulating its volume according to the variations from the standard strength, by reason of changes in temperature. This contrivance, which needs no further explanation, has been found very convenient by our Assayer, (it having been made since the departure of Mr. Mitchell) and I hope that it may meet the approval of the Parent mint.

I shall feel obliged to you for information, in what manner, and at what time, it may be agreeable to you to receive my bill for the two counting machines, the one sent now, and another some two years ago. The price is $75 each; and I charge nothing for applying the improvements. I have paid $4 freight on the one you sent me; shall I add this item to my bill?

I have the honor to be,
with the highest regards,
Your Obt. Servt
A. F. Bonzano

James Ross Snowden, Esq
Director of the mint
Phila.

From
Dr M & Bonzano
New Orleans

Forwarding Counting
Machine — as
Repayment of Bill

Aug 26. 1859

Directors Answer
Enclosed Sept 1, 1889

Sept. 1. 59.

Dear Sir,

My absence from town has prevented an earlier acknowledgment of your letter of the 15th ult. and of the box therein referred to, which came to hand a few days after the letter.

The Sifette, I regret to state, was much injured and broken. I placed it in the hands of our Assayer, and enclose a copy of his report to me on the subject.

The box must have been very roughly handled for the counting machine was found to be much the worse for the transportation. It can be put in order again by our machinists. In answer to your inquiry I have to state that you may unless duplicate bills, receipted, for the machines, and include the amount you paid for transportation. I will remit the amt. to you by check or draft.

I regret that my attempts from home
prevented me from having the pleasure
of seeing Dr. Millspaugh, the appearance of
your Brother, he made a brief visit
[illegible] Richmond home the day he left
the City.

I am, with much respect,
Yours, very truly
James Pollock Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Dr. M. F. Bondano
Melter and Refiner
Branch Mint
New Orleans.

Augt 31 59

Hon. J. R. Snowden
Director &c &c
Dear Sir,

The pipette sent by Dr Bonzano, with his sliding adjustment, was badly broken, but not so as to prevent a proper understanding of his method. I consider it a neat and ingenious arrangement, effecting the object for which it is designed.

I do not perceive, however, that it actually facilitate the humid assay. The most reliable correction of the variation in the normal liquor, (arising from change of temperature and other causes) is undoubtedly the proof by fine silver. As this has to be made with each day's working, and then the correction is complete. The sliding line could not itself be set, with due accuracy, without this guide.

Very respectfully yours
J. R. Eckfeldt Assayer.

United States Branch Mint,

New Orleans August 17th 1859

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 10th inst, inquiring whether Mr Maunsell appointed acting Assayer in the place of Mr Millspaugh, during the latter's absence, was attached to this Branch Mint.

In reply thereto, I have to state that Mr Maunsell is, and has been attached to this Branch, as Assistant to the Assayer, since 28th January last.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

Tom Wm A. Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

States that Mr
Mansell recently
appointed to act
in the place of the
Assayer is "attached
to the Mint"

Aug 27. 1859

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, at the close of the week ending August 27th. 1859.

		Dollars	¢
Coinage acct Dr.			
Balance per last Statement		308.356	01
Silver Bars received		11.652	35
Total means for the week	G. ¢ 42.796.11 / S. ¢ 277.212.25	320.008	36
Coinage acct Cr.			
Paid during the week	G. ¢ 1.584.59 / S. ¢ 31.104.84	32.689	43
Balance	G. ¢ 41.211.52 / S. ¢ 246.107.41	287.318	93
		320.008	36
Bullion acct Dr.			
Unpaid Deposits	G. ¢ 4.300. / S. ¢ 1.500.	5.800	00
U. S. Deposit		489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion Account		495.067	46
Deduct Balance, as abm		287.318	93
Difference being Bullion in process of Coinage,	G. ¢ 29.600 / S. ¢ 178.148.53	207.748	53

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office August 27th. 1859.

A. J. Guion
Treasurer.

Aug. 27th/59

United States Br. Mint
New Orleans August 29th 1859

Sir

Inclosed please find the usual statement of the condition of this Institution for the week ending 27th Inst.

Very respectfully

Wm. A. Elmore

Supt

Hon J Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

August 29th 1869

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF August 1859

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting. Ounces.	Dec.	Standard Weight. Ounces.	Dec.	Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Value after Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold.										
Chile Doubloons &c	3553		34266		63751		63253			
Mexican Bullion	26501		252146		469109		465423			
Unknown Do.	7899		13562		25231		24938			
U. S. Do. Cala.	8236		82388		153280		152188			
									711371	
Silver										
French Coins &c	11595		11556		13447		13447			
Mexican Do. *	2542660		2532666		2947110		2947110			
Chile Bullion	3553		288		335		335			
Mexican Do.	3408356		3651729		4249285		4237306			
Unknown Do.	34509		30632		35644		35644			
U. S. Coins &c.	48940		48441		56368		56368			
U. S. Bullion, Cala.	6439		658		765		765			
									4650554	
									7 6 56	
									* 46497 89	
									5361925	

* $2190 in charge

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold					
No Coinage					
Silver					
Half Dollars	400000			200000	00
Bars				11652	35
				211652	35

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, August 31st 1859.

A. J. Guion
Treasurer

A. S. Guirot, Treasurer of
the U. States Branch Mint
New Orleans August 31st 1859.

Statement of the Deposits and
Coinage, for the Month of
August 1859.

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Sept 1st 1859

Sir

I enclosed please find the usual monthly count and examination of the money in the hands of the Treasurer of this Branch, for the month of August just ended, which you will please forward to the Hon the Sec of the Treasury & oblige very respectfully
Your obt Servt

Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon J. Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From
Wm A Elmore.
Supt Pr Mint
New Orleans

Monthly Count
and Examination

Sept 7. 1869

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Sept 5th 1859

Sir

Please find inclosed, the usual statement of the condition of this Institution for the week ending 3d inst.

Very respectfully
Wm A Elmore

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, at the close of the week ending September 3d. 1859.

		Dollars	¢
Coinage Acct Dr.			
Balance per last Statement		287.318	93
Silver Coins received		50.000	00
Total means for the week	¢/ 41.211.52 $/ 296.107.41	337.318	93
Coinage Acct Cr.			
Paid during the week	¢/ 4687.11 $/ 983.17	5.670	28
Silver Coins reserved for Assay		10	00
Balance	¢/ 3652411 $/ 295.114.24	331.638	65
		337.318	93
Bullion Acct Dr.			
Unpaid deposits	¢/ 1.183.40 $/ 7.747.68	8.931	08
U. S. Deposit Acct		489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion Acct		498.198	54
Deduct Balance as above		331.638	65
Difference being Bullion in process of Coinage	¢/ 30.756.72 $/ 135.803.17	166.559	89

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, September 3d. 1859.

A. Dimond
Treasurer.

Sept 3rd 1834

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Sept 2d 1859.

Sir

Herewith please find statements of Deposits and Coinage, and Coins reserved for a pay during the month of August just expired.

I send by to day mail one box of Coins (a pay).

Very respectfully

Wm A. Elmore
Supt

Hon J Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From To

Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Assay coins & Reports
for August rec'd & acts

Sept 9, 1859

September 1859

Mint of the United States
Philad.a Sept 9. 1859

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d inst with the enclosures stated, also a [illegible] containing the assay [illegible] of your branch Mint for the month of August last.

Very Respectfully,
Sir Your Obt Servant
Director of the Mint.

Mr. A. Dunn Esq.
Supt. Branch Mint
New Orleans!
La.

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, at the close of the week ending September 10th. 1859.

		Dollars	cts
Coinage acct Dr.			
Balance per last Statement		331.638	65
Silver coins received		50.000	00
Total means for the week	G. $ 36524.41 / S. $ 345.114 24	381.638	65
Coinage acct Cr.			
Paid during the week	G. $ 581.58 / S. $ 5629.39	6.316	97
Silver Coins reserved for Assay		.100	
Balance	G. $ 35936.83 / S. $ 339.474.85	375.411	68
		381.638	65
Bullion acct Dr.			
Unpaid deposits	G. $ 590.82 / S. $ 5.117.36	5.713	18
U. S. Deposit Fund		489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion acct		494.980	64
Deduct Balance as above		375.411	68
Difference being bullion in proof of Coinage	G. $ 30756.72 / S. $ 88.812.24	119.568	96

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, September 10th 1859.

S. H. Garrison
Treasurer.

Sep. 10th /59

Mint of the United States.
Philad.a Sept 10, 1859.

Sir.

In consequence of the increased amount of very coppery silver, and of gold alloyed with silver and copper, offered at the Mint and its Branches, which it is not deemed expedient to refuse, but for which there are no adequate charges under present regulations, I have deemed it expedient to prescribe the following changes, in the items to be found on pages 7 and 8, edition 1858, of "Instructions relative to the transaction of business &c &c" so far as relates to the Mint at Philadelphia, the Branch Mint at New Orleans, and the assay office New York; to take effect on receipt of this communication.

Strike out all after "New York" on page 7, as far as "note" on page 8, and insert the following:

II. For toughening or refining

1. On gold not ductile, and not parting under the rules, one to three and a half cents per ounce of gross weight after melting according to the condition of the metal.
2. On silver, (whether a purchase or deposit) not

ductile, and not less than 750 fine, one third-cent to one cent per ounce as above.

3. On coppery silver, ductile, but below 750 fine, two rates of charges, as follows:

If below 600, three cents per ounce on so much of the deposit as will require to be made fine, in order to bring the whole to standard.

If from 600 to 749, two and a half cents per ounce as above.

If 750 or above no charge

4. On base silver (alloyed with copper, lead or tin,) not ductile, and below 750 fine, the same charges as in No 3, and one cent per ounce on the remainder of the metal.

5. For refining coppery silver of any fineness, in order to return fine stamped bars, (990, or over,) three cents per ounce of gross weight after melting.

II. For Separating Gold from Silver.

1. When the mixture is free from copper:—

Proportion of Gold.		
1 to 200 thousandths,	1½	cents per ounce gross after melting
201 - 600	2	" " " " " "
601 - 700	3	" " " " " "
701 - 800	4	" " " " " "
801 - 946	5	" " " " " "

2. When there is copper, not over 50 thous., no addition

charge; 50 to 150, one cent additional; more than 150, two cents additional. And if the metal be brittle, requiring a flux-refining, then a further charge of one to three and a half cents per ounce, according to its condition.

In order to amend the printed Pamphlet, in conformity with the above, printed slips are herewith forwarded, and will be pasted in the copies now on hand at Your institution.

Very Respectfully,
Saml. Rob. Snowden.
Director of the Mint.

Wm. A. Elmore Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans,
La.

Mint of the United States.
Phil.a Sept 10. 1859.

Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. with the enclosures stated, also, a package containing the assay coins of your branch mint for the month of August last.

Very Respectfully,

Director of the Mint.

J. M. Patton Esq.,
Supt Branch Mint,
Dahlonega,
Ga.

To
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Tariff of Charges
on deposits of Gold
Silver of Con fineness

Sept 10. 1839.

U. S. Branch Mint,

New Orleans, Sept 13th 1859

Sir

Herewith please find the usual statement of the condition of this Institution for the week ending 10th Inst.

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore

Supt

Hon J Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Phila

Sep. 13th 1859

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Sept 16th 1859

Sir

I am in the receipt of your letter of 5th Inst requesting me, "as soon after 30th Inst as convenient," to furnish you with the estimate of appropriations required for the support of this Institution for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1861.

Very respectfully
Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon J Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

Inm W H Elmer
Supt Br Mint
N. O.

A&L letter requesting Estimates

Sept 26. 1859.

U. S. Branch Mint,

New Orleans, Sept 19th 1859

Sir

I enclose please find the usual statement of the condition of this Institution, for the week ending 17th Inst

Very respectfully

Wm A Elmore

Supt

Hon J. Ross Snowden

Director Mint

Phila

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint at New Orleans at the close of the week ending September 17th 1859.

		Dollars	cts
Coinage acct Dr			
Balance per last Statement & total means for the week	G $ 35.936.83 S $ 339.474.85	375.411	68
Coinage acct Cr.			
Paid during the week	G. $ 493.76 S. $ 4642.43	5.136	19
Balance	G $ 35.443.07 S $ 334.832.42	370.275	49
		375.411	68
Bullion acct Dr.			
Unpaid Deposits	G. $ 2.840.63 S. $ 64.100.00	66.940	63
U. S. Deposit Acct		489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion Account		556.208	09
Deduct Balance, as above		370.275	49
Difference being bullion in process of Coinage	G $ 31.363.94 S $ 154.568.66	185.932	60

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office Septr. 17th 1859
A J Guivot
Treasurer.

Sept. 19th, 1839.

United States Br Mint
Dahlonega Sept 21st 1859

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of instructions of 10th Inst, in reference to the stamps "on copper, silver, and of gold alloyed with silver, and copper" with the printed slips.

The order proceeded will be at once carried into effect.

Very respectfully
Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From

Supt U.S. Mint
New Orleans
La

Acct receipts
Tariff of charges &c
Silver deposits &c

Sept 28, 1859.

Correspondence
Branch Mints

September
1859.

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint at New Orleans at the close of the week ending September 24th. 1859.

		Dollars	cts
Coinage acct Dr.			
Balance per last Statement		370.275	49
Silver Coins received		45.000	00
Total means for the week	$ 379.832.42	415.275	49
Coinage acct Cr			
Paid during the week	$ 21.026.21	23.271	02
Silver Coins reserved for assay		900	
Balance	$ 358.797.21	391.995	47
		415.275	49
Bullion acct Dr.			
Unpaid Deposits	$ 68.000.00	74.300	00
U. S. Deposit Fund		489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion Acct		563.567	46
Deduct Balance as above		391.995	47
Difference being Bullion in favor of Coinage	$ 189.371.99	171.571	99

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurers Office, Septr. 24th. 1859.

Treasurer.

Sept 24, 1809

United States Br. Mint
New Orleans Sept 26th 1859

Sir

Herewith please find, the usual statement of the condition of this Institution for the week ending 24th Inst.

Very respectfully
Wm B Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

Sept 26th 1859

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia Sept 27. 1859.

Sir.

The following modification of the regulations heretofore prescribed touching the charges to be made on deposit, is presented.

For the 5th item of the 1st clause of the regulations prescribed in my letter of the 10th inst and contained in the printed slips, I now substitute the following graduated scale of charges.

5 On Silver Bullion payable in Fine Bars.

Bars bearing the stamp of any U.S. Mint establishment of a fineness of 980 and above 1/2 cent per oz gross

Other silver	950	" "	1 " " " "
	750 @ 949		2 " " " "
	600 @ 749		2½ " " " "
below	600		3 " " " "

Silver bullion contained in gold deposits, and parted for the benefit of the depositor, may be paid for at his option, in fine silver bars or in silver dollars, at a charge in either case of 50 cents per $100 of value

These regulations are to take effect on the receipt of this communication.

Very Respectfully,
James Rob Snowden
Director of the Mint

Wm. A. Elmore Esq,
Supt. Bo. Mint,
New Orleans
(Ld)

To

Supt Br Mint

New Orleans

Modification of
charges prescribed
on 10th inst.

Special File

Sept 20. 1859.

Sept 30, 1859

Dr. Profit

1859.			Dollars	¢
June	30	To Balance		
		Per acct rendd to date	7.562	00
September	"	" Gold Coinage		
		For parting charges on Gold Bullion,		
		paid into the U.S. Treasury to the		
		credit of the contingent fund of this		
		Branch Mint	141	52
	"	" Silver Coinage		
		For Sundry charges on Silver Bullion		
		paid into the U.S. Treasury to the		
		credit of the contingent fund of this		
		Branch Mint $ 413.27		
		For Silver parted for the Mint,		
		paid into the Treasury, as above $ 12.71	425	98
			8.129	50

& Loss Cr.

			Dollars	cts
1859				
September	30	By Gold Bullion purch.d for Coinage		
		For parting Charges on Gold Bullion during 3.d Quarter of 1859.	141	52
	"	" Silver Bullion purch.d for Coinage		
		For Sundry charges on Silver Bullion deposited to be made into Dollars & Bars, 3d. Quarter 1859.	413	27
		For Silver parted for the Mint 3.d Quarter of 1859.	12	71
	"	" Balance		
		To new acct	7.562	00
			8.129	50

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Septr. 30. 1859.

A. J. Quiros
Treasurer.

Dr.

Bullion Deposit

			Dollars	¢
1859				
September	30	To Balance		
		To new acct	763	54
			763	54

Bullion Deposit Profit & Loss. Cr.

Dollars	cts	1859			Dollars	cts
		September	30	By Gold Bullion purch'd for Coinage		
763	54			For Coinage Charge on gross value of Gold deposited during 3d Quarter 1859 and Silver parted therefrom for the Depositor	114	91
			"	" Silver Bullion purch'd for Coinage For Coinage Charge on gross value of Silver deposited to be coined into Dollars, 3d Quarter of 1859.	648	63
763	54				763	54

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Septr. 30. 1859.

A. Schiros
Treasurer.

Dr. Silver Purchases

			Dollars	ct
1859.				
September	30	To Silver Purchases		
		For difference between cost price and intrinsic value of Silver Bullion purchd for Coinage, 3d Quarter of 1859.	7.347	90
	"	" Gold Coinage		
		For premiums paid on Silver parted for the Depositor during 3d Qr. of 1859	39	91
	"	" Balance		
		To mint acct	19.551	10
			27.290	91

Profit & Loss. Cr

1859			Dollars	¢
September	30	By Silver Coinage For the enhanced nominal value of 316.000 Ounces of Silver Coins, received from the Coiner, 3d Quarter of 1859.	27.290	91
			27.290	91

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, Sept. 30. 1859.
J. C. Ewing
Treasurer.

New Orleans

Expt Ross 1859

a/c

3d Quarter 1839

Sept. 30, 1859,

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF September 1859

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting. Ounces.	Dec.	Standard Weight. Ounces.	Dec.	Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Value after Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value before Deductions. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold										
Mexican Doubloons	32	33	32	186	598	81	595	82		
Mexican Bullion	6.036	18	44	511	828	11	696	01		
Unknown Bullion	59	76	17	898	332	99	329	17		
U.S. Bullion, Cala,	27	28	26	673	496	24	493	76		
									2.256	15
Silver										
French Coins &c	848	40	845	10	983	39	983	39		
Mexican Coins &c √	1.993	35	1.986	39	2.311	44	2.311	44		
Mexican Bullion	90.983	88	99.448	36	115.721	73	115.365	08		
Unknown Bullion	559	06	484	62	563	92	563	92		
U.S. Coins	1.525	05	1.519	35	1.767	97	1.767	97		
									121.348	45
									123.604	60

√ $600.00 in Change.

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value. Dollars.	Cts.	Total Value. Dollars.	Cts.
Gold					
No Delivery					
Silver					
Half Dollars	190.000	95000	00		
				95.000	00
				95.000	00

U.S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, Septr. 30th. 1859.
[illegible]
Treasurer.

1859

Sept. 1859

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Oct 1st 1859

Sir

Inclosed please find the usual monthly count and examination of the money in the hands of the Treasurer of this Branch for the month of Sept. just expired, which you will please forward to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Very respectfully

Wm. A. Elmore
Supt

Hon James Pollock
Director Mint.
Phila

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Oct 4th 1859

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 27th Ult. containing a "modification of the Regulations heretofore prescribed touching the charges to be made on Deposits."

The modification made in your letter will be hereafter duly observed.

Very respectfully
Yours
Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon J Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Oct 4th 1859

Sir

Inclosed, please find account of "Profit & Loss," "Bullion Deposit Profit & Loss," and "Silver Purchase Profit & Loss," for the 3d Quarter of 1859, also statement of Expenditures for the same period, and statement of Deposits & Coinage and Coins reserved for assay during September, together with the usual weekly statement of the condition of this Institution, for the week 1st Inst.

I also send by to day's mail one box of assay Coins.

Very respectfully
Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon J Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From To
Wm A Elmore Esq
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Assay Coins Reports

for September rec'd to
ack: call attention
to fact of no good
coins being resembled
for assay

Oct 11, 1859

October 1859

Mint of the United States.
Philad^a Oct 11. 1859.

Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 1st & 4th inst with the endorsers stated, also, a package containing the assay coins of your branch Mint for the Month of September last.

A coinage of 750 double Eagles, during last month, is stated by your Treasurer, but no pieces of that denomination are reported as received for the annual assay — Be pleased to explain how this occurred.

Very Respectfully,
James Ref Dundas.
Director of the Mint.

Wm A. Elmore Esq.
Supt Br Mint,
New Orleans,
La.

12, Store Street, Bedford Square,
London, w.c. 6. Octbr. 1859.

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge receipt of yours of Septb. 19. ordering Assay-balance and weights to be sent to New-Orleans. The same will be forwarded according to instructions in about a fortnight hence.

Yours Obediently
Ludwig Oertling

Hon.ble J. R. Snowden.

From Lewis Oertling
London

Ack order for
assay balance
& New Orleans

Oct 22. 1889

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Oct 8th 1859

Sir

In a few days, I will forward our estimates for the fiscal year ending June 1861.

Very respectfully
Wm. L. Elmore
Supt

Hon J. Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

Yours
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Estimates promised

Oct 14, 1889

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Oct 10th 1859

Sir

I inclose please find the usual statement of the condition of this Institution for the week ending 8th Inst.

Very respectfully

Wm. A. Elmore
Supt

Hon J. Ross Snowden
Director Mint

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint, New Orleans at the close of the week ending October 8th. 1859.

		Dollars	cts
Coinage acct Dr.			
Balance per last Statement		360.707	98
Silver Coins received		50.000	00
Total means for the week	Gs 39.447.97 / $ 371.260.01	410.707	98
Coinage acct Cr.			
Deposits paid	Gs 318.93 / $ 167.942.77	168.261	70
Silver Coins returned for assay		1000	
Balance	Gs 39.129.04 / $ 203.307.24	242.436	28
		410.707	98
Bullion acct Dr.			
Unpaid Deposits	Gs 15.081.65 / $ 1.858.34	16.939	89
U. S. Bullion Fund		489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion acct		506.207	35
Deduct balance, as above		242.436	28
Difference being bullion in proof of Coinage	Gs 83.904.88 / $ 229.866.19	263.770	67

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office Oct. 8th 1859.

S. D. Harris
Treasurer.

N. C.
Ending Oct. 8th 1859

Mint of the United States.
Philad.a Oct 11, 1859

Sir.

In compliance with the act of March 4th 1853. c. 97. I herewith present a statement of the expenditures of the Mint for the Quarter ending September 30. 1859:

To Sec Treasury

Transmitting Statements from New Orleans

Oct 11. 1834

Mint of the United States.
Phila.a Oct 11. 1859.

Sir.

I transmit herewith a report of the usual monthly count and examination, at the Branch Mint New Orleans, on the 30th ult.o: also, a statement of the expenditures of that institution during the quarter ending on that day.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your faithful servant.
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint.

Hon Howell Cobb,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Oct 12 1859

Sir

I have the honor to inclose you an estimate of the appropriation required for the support of this Institution for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1861.

Very respectfully

Wm. E. Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Philadelphia

From
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans
La

Annual Estimates
presented

Oct 18, 1859

Correspondence
Branch Mints,

October 1859,

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, at the close of the week ending Octr 15. 1859.

	Dollars	cts
Coinage acct Dr.		
Balance per last Statement	242.436	28
Received in Silver Coins	50.000	00
Total means for the week G$ 39.129.04 S$ 253.307.24	292.436	28
Coinage act Cr.		
Paid during the week G$ 7.902.33 S$ 4.403.06	12.305	39
Silver Coins reserved for Assay	10	00
Balance G$ 31.226.71 S$ 248.894.18	280.120	89
	292.436	28
Bullion acct Dr.		
Unpaid Deposits G$ 13.500 S$ 100.000	113.500	00
U. S. Bullion Fund	489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion Account	602.767	46
Deduct Balance, as above	280.120	89
Difference being bullion in process of Coinage G$ 39.750 S$ 282.896.57	322.646	57

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office Octr 15th. 1859
A. J. Smith
Treasurer

Oct 15th 1859

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Oct. 19. 1859.

Sir,

I enclose a corrected Statement of Deposits and Coinage for the month of September, which you will please request the Director to substitute for the one already forwarded to him and incorrectly stating a coinage of 750. Double Eagles for that month.

This error occurred while the Clerk was occupied in making the returns for the last quarter, when he erroneously included in the Statement of Deposits & Coinage for September the delivery of 750 Double Eagles made during July last, and being the whole Gold Coinage for the last Quarter.

Very respectfully
your obt. svt.
A. J. Guion
Treasurer

Wm. A. Elmore Esqr.
Supt Br. Mint
New Orleans.

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Oct 21st 1859

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 11th Inst— and in which you ask for an explanation as to the reported coinage of 750 Double Eagles for the last months.

I now inclose you, a letter from the Treasurer, with a corrected statement, of Deposits & Coinage for the month of September, which I hope will be found to contain a satisfactory explanation of the error pointed out.

Very respectfully

Wm. A. Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Phila

From
Supt Br Mint
New Orleans

Correcting error
in Monthly report
for September

Oct 26. 1859.

U. S. Branch Mint,
New Orleans, Oct 24th 1859

Sir

Please find inclosed, the usual statement of the condition of this Institution for the week ending 22d Inst.

Very respectfully
Wm A Elmore
Supt

Hon James Ross Snowden
Director Mint
Philadelphia

Oct 24/1839

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, at the close of the week ending October 22d 1859.

	Dollars	cts
Coinage acct Dr		
Balance per last Statement	280.120	89
Silver coins received	50.000	00
Total means for the week Co $ 31.226.71 S $ 298.894.18	330.120	89
Coinage acct Cr		
Paid during the week Co $ 13.440.37 S $ 29.166.37	42.606	74
Silver coins reserved for assay	10	00
Balance Co $ 17.786.34 S $ 269.719.81	287.504	15
	330.120	89
Bullion acct Dr		
Unpaid Deposits Co $ 375.55 S $ 82.300.00	82.675	55
U. S. Bullion Fund	489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion Account	571.943	01
Deduct Balance, as above,	287.504	15
Difference being Bullion in process of Coinage Co $ 40.014.29 S $ 244.424.57	284.438	86

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, October 22d 1859.

A. J. Guirard
Treasurer

Oct 22nd 1859

Statement of the condition of the Branch Mint, at New Orleans, at the close of the week ending October 29th. 1859.

	Dollars	cts
Coinage acct Dr.		
Balance per last Statement	287.504	15
Silver Bars received	6.633	06
Total means for the week Co $ 17.786.34 S $ 276.350.87	294.137	21
Coinage acct Cr.		
Paid during the week Co $ 375.55 S $ 82.909.93	83.285	48
Balance Co $ 17.410.79 S $ 193.440.94	210.851	73
	294.137	21
Bullion acct Dr.		
Unpaid Deposits Co $ 12.000 S $ 1.500	13.500	00
U. S. Bullion Fund	489.267	46
Total debt on Bullion Account	502.767	46
Deduct Balance, as above	210.851	73
Difference being Bullion in process of Coinage Co $ 52.014.29 S $ 239.901.44	291.915	73

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, October 29th. 1859.

[illegible]
Treasurer

Oct 29th 1839

Oct — 31, 1859.

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSITES AND COINAGE AT THE BRANCH MINT NEW-ORLEANS, DURING THE MONTH OF October 1859

DEPOSITES.

Description of Bullion.	Gross Weight after Melting.	Standard Weight.	Value before Deductions.	Value after Deductions.	Total Value before Deductions.
	Ounces. Dec.	Ounces. Dec.	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.
Gold					
Columbian Doubloons	708 76	684 385	12.732 75	12.635 01	
Mexican Bullion	1461 1 20	104.631	1.946 61	1.693 82	
Unknown Do.	3917	1813 1	33 732	33 264	
U. States Do. Coin	33726	303 836	5.652 76	5.609 73	
					20.669 44
Silver					
French Coins &c	205 55	198 69	231 20	231 20	
Mexican Do *	2.368 35	2.361 98	2.748 49	2.748 49	
Spanish Do *	157 535	1.564 35	1.820 33	1.820 33	
Columbian Bullion	674 49	61 05	71 04	71 04	
Mexican Do.	170.415 15	192.186 79	223.635 54	223.531 85	
Unknown Do.	41882	35362	411 49	411 49	
U. States Coins &c	2.662 70	2.653 72	3.087 97	3.087 97	
U. States Bullion, Calf	32794	6193	7205	72 05	
					232.078 11
					252.747 55

* $1,758.00/100 in charges

COINAGE.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces.	Value.	Total Value.
		Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.
Gold.			
Silver			
Dollars	50.000	50.000 00	
Half Dollars	300.000	150.000 00	
			200.000 00
Silver Bars		6633 06	
			6633 06
			206.633 06

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, October 31st 1859.

[signature]
Treasurer.